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8 November 2017 Vol 24 • Issue 45 www.champnews.com

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BATTLING MUM'S 'RED TAPE' FEARS

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Helen finally wins funds to adapt home for disabled daughter but warns other youngsters could miss out

THE mother of a teenager who suffers from an extremely rare congenital disorder has spoken of her long-running battle to secure the right care and support for her daughter.

And she fears other children in the borough could be missing out on vital help because of authorities' 'red tape'.

Helen Ankers' daughter, Kirsty has Weaver syndrome, a disorder associated with rapid growth beginning in the prenatal period and continuing through the toddler and youth years, and at just 13 years of age she is already 6ft 1in tall.

As a result of the condition the youngster, who also has autism and a rare type of migraine which can leave her temporarily paralysed, suffers from painful joints and extreme mobility issues.

Helen, 51, from Burscough, says that when Kirsty was seven years old it became apparent that she could no longer attend her local primary school due to her condition and she believed her needs would be best served by switching to the private Pontiville School in nearby Aughton.

However, Lancashire County Council initially refused to fund her place, saying that Kirsty should go to a school in Chorley instead.

Despite this setback Helen enlisted the help of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and following an appeal and nine-month campaign, the authority relented and agreed to pay.

Helen and daughter Kirsty

Helen faced another battle when she applied for a grant to fund adaptations to make her bathroom wheelchair-accessible to enable Kirsty to wash herself.

These have to be approved by Lancashire Care's occupational therapy department but, she says, after six visits they claimed that as Kirsty had some mobility she didn't need the adaptation.

Once again Helen refused to give up and the funding was finally approved after Kirsty's consultant intervened.

The frustrated mum said: "We're not asking for a new house or a million pounds, just a bathroom where my daughter can wash herself or shower."

Unfortunately an application for an NHS-funded powered wheelchair to give Kirsty some independence and make it possible for her to go on outings like other children was rejected and the family are now trying to raise the money to buy one through an appeal on the JustGiving online social platform.

But despite her own partial success in winning better support for her daughter, Helen fears other children might not be so lucky.

She said; "I am worried that there are so many children out there whose parents are so worn down by all these processes that they are not getting what they need."

A spokesperson for Lancashire County Council said: "We work very hard to ensure that we find the most appropriate educational provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Whilst we do not comment on the specifics of individual cases, the system has

Continued inside

Jenny and family and friends at their 'Lose The Locks' day

Jenny's 'good hair day' boost for cancer charities

HAIRDRESSER Jenny Maney and her family donated some of their own hair for children undergoing cancer treatment as part of a fundraising event for a breast cancer charity.

The 'Lose the Locks' event was held at Jenny's Unity Hair Studio salon in Moorgate, Ormskirk.

Jenny, her daughter Olivia and her friend Mia, and Jenny's sister Rebecca Johnson and her daughter Isobel, all gave generously for the cause.

The lopped locks were then packaged and sent off to the Little Princess Trust charity which makes wigs for children undergoing treatment for cancer.

And after also raising money online using crowdfunding website JustGiving, Jenny was able to donate £1,200 to Breast Cancer Care.

She was motivated to do something for the charity after a family member was diagnosed with breast cancer. "It all went very well - I suppose you could call it a good hair day!"

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We will remember them

WEST Lancashire will, as ever, pay tribute to those brave people who have suffered or lost their lives serving their country at Remembrance Sunday parades and services in the borough on Sunday, November 12.

The Mayor, Councillor Neil Furey, who will be attending services in Ormskirk and Burscough, said: "Remembrance Sunday is an extremely important occasion when we come together to honour brave men and women who have died in the service of their country.

"West Lancashire is very proud of its links with the armed forces and large numbers attend parades every year. We will all gather with great pride to pay our respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice."

Details of the main services are as follows:

Ormskirk: The Mayor, Councillor Neil Furey, accompanied by West Lancashire Borough Council's chief executive, Kim Webber, will attend the event.

The parade will assemble at St Anne's RC Church at 9.30am for a short service which begins at 9.40am, and will include a minute's silence, Last Post and Reveille.

Then at 9.50am the parade will march to the war memorial in Coronation Park for a service. There will be a minute's silence, Last Post, laying of wreaths and Reveille.

At 10.10am the parade will march to Ormskirk Parish Church for the main Service of Remembrance, which will start at 10.30am. A salute will be taken outside the Parish Church.

Refreshments will be served in the New Church Hall.

Skelmersdale: The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Noel Delaney, accompanied by the director of housing & inclusion, Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey, will join the parade which marches from Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale, at 10.35am, to the war memorial on Sandy Lane for a service and wreath-laying ceremony at 11am, which will include a minute's silence, Last Post and Reveille.

Last year's Remembrance Sunday tribute at Ormskirk St Anne's Church war memorial

Refreshments will be available after the service at the Winchester, Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale and also at the Wardens' Club, Blaguegate Lane, Skelmersdale.

Burscough: The Mayor will attend the parade and service in Burscough. The parade will assemble outside Legion headquarters, Lord Street, Burscough at 1.45pm and march off at 2pm to the war memorial in Junction Lane, where a wreath will be laid and a service will take place.

Refreshments will be provided at Legion headquarters.

In addition, parish councils in Aughton, Lathom and Up Holland are arranging parades and ceremonies, and services will be held at many churches in the borough.

Meanwhile, West Lancashire Borough Council has also organised a service and two-minute silence ceremony at 11am on Saturday, November 11 at the war memorial in Coronation Park, Ormskirk.

The event will be attended by the Mayor, members of the local clergy, councillors and senior officers of the council. Members of the public are welcome to attend the service and ceremony and are invited to gather from 10.45am onwards.

The Lathom and Burscough branch of the Royal British Legion will also be hosting an Armistice Day Service at 10.30am on Saturday, November 11 at the HMS Ringtail Memorial in Pippin Street, Burscough. The Deputy Mayor of West Lancs, Cllr. Noel Delaney will attend.

The memorial garden is adjacent to Booths Café where people can meet from 10am. Everyone is welcome. There will be a service and a two-minute silence, after which wreaths will be laid at the monument.

The Last Post will be at 11am.

● Village remembers its fallen - Page 8.

Civic duo join in Halloween fun

THE borough's Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert joined in the fun at the Halloween extravaganza in Ormskirk's Coronation Park.

Volunteers from the Friends of Coronation Park joined West Lancs Council's Parks and Countryside Service to deliver a night filled with wonder and surprises.

Visitors were also treated to spine-tingling bandstand performances from The Doctors, while community dance group Basedance wowed the crowds alongside fun family activities such as 'soak the spook' and fancy dress competitions.

Right: The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress on their visit to the Halloween celebrations at Ormskirk's Coronation Park.

Former Edge Hill professor received death threats over Hillsborough panel

Report by **Henry James**

FORMER Edge Hill staff member and Hillsborough campaigner, Professor Phil Scraton has revealed he received death threats while trying to get justice for the 96 Liverpool fans who lost their lives in the disaster in 1989.

Professor Scraton, who was appointed a member of the Hillsborough Independent Panel (HIP) and led its research team, made the revelation when he appeared on the long-running Radio 4 programme, Desert Island Discs.

The programme, which has been on air 75 years, features guests being invited to name the eight pieces of music, plus a book and a 'luxury' item, which they would take with them if given a choice on a desert island.

Professor Phil Scraton

Challenge

During the show, the professor, who worked at Edge Hill for 13 years from 1990 to 2003, said: "My work has not all been without challenge. I had death threats to my home phone number, which was ex-directory, and have had a whole series of checks - or attempted checks - put on me at my workplace, although not at my present one, Queen's University in Belfast.

"I had one famous memo at work which said I should think less about being involved in Hillsborough and more about getting on with my academic work.

"But I got by with help from my friends and the love and support of those who are close to me."

Kop 'anthem', You'll Never Walk Alone was one of his chosen records and he also spoke about his time on the Hillsbourgh Independent Panel which led to a second inquest.

He said: "I was in the court when the verdict of the jury was read out and when they arrived at the 'unlawfully killed verdict' there was an immediate response of vindication among the families I was sitting with.

"However, still there was an issue because the next question was 'did the fans in anyway contribute to that unlawful killing' and when the verdict was read out as 'no' I broke down. I will never forget that moment of families comforting me."

Mum's battle to win support for disabled daughter

From Page 1

changed significantly since Ms Ankers' experience. Most children with special educational needs and disabilities will now have their needs met through what is known as the local offer, while those with more complex needs will be formally assessed as part of the process of gaining an education, health and care plan, which the council must complete within 20 weeks."

And a spokesperson for Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust said: "We are really sorry to hear of the difficulties that Helen and her daughter Kirsty have experienced and for the length of time that this has taken. It is our absolute intention to ensure that we provide the best care and treatment in the timeliest manner. We would welcome an opportunity to have a conversation with Helen directly to fully understand the delays.

"Although we are not responsible for providing the adaptation, we would want to offer our full support in this process and establish if there is anything further we can do to assist Kirsty's needs being met."

● You can donate to Kirsty's wheelchair appeal at JustGiving.com by searching her name or by making a contribution directly to Brighter Futures in Skelmersdale who will be providing the chair.

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Council wins heritage listing for seven more borough war memorials

EXTENSIVE research by West Lancashire Borough Council has been successful in earning seven of the area's war memorials a place on the National Heritage List for England.

War memorials provide communities with an enduring link to those hundreds of thousands who gave their lives in the First World War. They are an integral part of the social history of our villages and towns and are important places of commemoration for local communities.

No area of our heritage is more poignant than war memorials. They are found everywhere, and link the tragic impact of world wars with local communities across the land.

Every community sent people off to fight and work; virtually all suffered losses, creating a powerful need for memorials. No greater wave of public remembrance has ever happened in history.

West Lancashire has a number of free-standing war memorials, many of which are found in public spaces, parks and within churchyards. Six of the memorials in the borough are publicly owned by the council.

To mark the centenary of the First World War, Historic England have embarked upon a five-year project to nationally recognise the importance of war memorials and add those which meet the national criteria to the National Heritage List for England.

As part of the national project, over the last 18 months, West Lancs Council's heritage and environment team have researched the history of the borough's war memorials currently not 'listed' and have been successful in getting seven further war memorials nationally recognised and added onto the National List for England.

This means that 15 out of the 18 free-standing war memorials in the borough are now listed and nationally recognised.

The Burscough war memorial

The newly-listed memorials are:

- Banks: In the grounds of St Stephen's Church.
- Burscough: Corner of Junction Lane and Liverpool Road South (council-owned).
- Great Altcar: In the grounds of St Michael and All Angels Church, Lord Sefton Way.
- Hesketh Bank: In the grounds of All Saints Church, Station Road.
- Lathom: Hall Lane, Lathom (council-owned).
- Ormskirk: Comrades, Coronation Park (council-owned)
- Tarleton: In the grounds of Holy Trinity Church, Church Road.

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "West Lancashire Borough Council understands that it is very important for communities to remember the fallen servicemen and women who have given their lives for their country.

"Recognising the importance of our war memorials to public remembrance is important to us and getting these war memorials 'listed' means that they will continue as lasting reminders of the sacrifice made by our servicemen and women."

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Rail enthusiasts team up with school in bid to win funding for joint project

A CAMPAIGN group which encourages communities to use their local railways is bidding to win funding for an art project that will engage local school children and brighten up Burscough Junction station.

Community Rail Lancashire is vying for votes to win a lump sum of £5,000 through insurance company Aviva's Community Fund programme

If successful, the rail enthusiasts will use the funding to enlist an artist to work with pupils at St John's Catholic Primary School in Burscough and a school in Erkrath, Germany.

The aim will be to create art work which will be printed on to several large panel. These panels will then be displayed permanently at Burscough Junction railway station, with a similar arrangement in Erkrath,

The initiative also seeks to promote 'European and cross-national' unity between the two groups of children through a pen-pal project, sharing photographs and setting up video link talks, as well as sharing language skills.

Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, Community Rail education development officer, said: "We hope that the project will not only revitalise the railway station and make it a more welcoming and bright environment for hundreds of local customers, but will also teach the children of both nations valuable lessons about unity, co-operation, and other ways of life, as well as valuable artistic skills and benefiting their local communities."

Pupils from St John's Catholic Primary School prepare for their rail project bid

And headteacher at St John's Catholic Primary, Liz Devey, added: "We are very excited about the project. It will be a fantastic opportunity for our pupils."

To vote for the school project go to https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-518. Votes must be submitted by Tuesday, November 21.

Primary Care Committee meeting

MEMBERS of the public are invited to attend the next meeting of the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group's Primary Care Committee.

This will be held in the boardroom of the CCG offices in Hilldale on the Ormskirk Hospital site on Tuesday, November 14 from 1.30 to 3pm.

Steve Gross, board lay member at NHS West Lancashire CCG and chair of the new Primary Care Committee, said: "As a group of local commissioners and clinicians, we understand what issues face our local communities, and importantly what needs our local people have. These new committee meetings are held in public, so anyone can observe them, which further reflects our commitment to be transparent about our plans and decisions."

For instructions on how to find the office, contact the CCG via 01695 588 000. The agenda for the meeting can be found at the website www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk under Primary Care Commissioning Committee.

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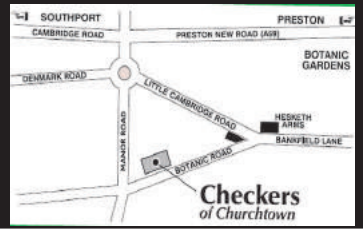

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Stretcher-carrying marathon raises £2,000 for charity

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A SPONSORED marathon challenge with a difference has raised more than £2,000 for a charity which helps former servicemen and women battling Post Traumatic Stress Disorder through inter-action with horses.

Stable Lives, based at Parbold Equestrian Centre in Bradshaw Lane, also works with the families of those affected by PTSD, as well as workers from the emergency services.

Their latest fundraising effort saw two teams of volunteers take it in turns to carry a stretcher from the equestrian centre to the top of nearby Parbold Hill and back over a 24-hour period.

Carrie Byrom, the charity's founder, said the event has so far helped raise more than £2,000 for the centre through sponsorship.

Now though she is appealing for donations of flooring materials for a yurt, a tent-like structure which is used as a hub for their activities.

"The event went really well, and the teams worked very hard to keep the stretcher going for the 24 hours.

Carrie Byron (right) with one of the teams who took part in the 24-hour sponsored stretcher carrying up and down Parbold Hill to raise money for the Stable Lives charity

"Sponsorship money is still coming in but at the moment we have received in excess of £2,000 which we are really pleased with. "The more funds we get in then the more courses we can run as every penny goes back into the projects.

"However, we are still looking to gain some support in putting in a new floor for our yurt. We are finding that during rainy periods the floor is becoming very wet.

"We have the skill set amongst our veterans and volunteers to fit a floor but the cost of the materials at the moment is beyond our reach.

"If any local businesses could help in any way then it would relieve a lot of pressure and enable us to utilise the yurt within the community all year round."

Anyone wishing to donate can contact Stable Lives via the website stablelives.wordpress.com or by phoning Parbold Equestran Centre on 01257 543053.

Heritage group to host talk on railway

THE November meeting of the Burscough Heritage Group will feature an illustrated talk on the history and development of the West Lancashire Light Railway by its chairman, Mike Spall.

This will be at The Blue Mallard on Burscough Wharf on Monday, November 13 starting at 7.30pm.

The West Lancashire Light Railway, a narrow gauge line which runs for approximately a quarter of a mile through a former quarry site in Hesketh Bank, celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.

All are welcome to attend for a £2 voluntary donation. For more information ring Colin Wareing on 07931 356204.

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Remembering village's fallen

THIRTY-three men from Bickerstaffe who lost their lives in two World Wars will be remembered, along with the many others who paid the ultimate price, when the village holds its annual Remembrance services.

A joint service with Bickerstaffe CE Primary School will be held on Friday, November 10.

And on Sunday, November 12 a parade featuring local armed forces veterans will leave from the parish field car park at 10.30am to Holy Trinity Church for a service at 10.45am.

Bill Gardiner, who served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME), attached to the Royal Artillery, will lead the parade carrying the British Legion Standard.

Following the service the names of the 33 and tributes will be read by the war memorial in front of the church.

Edge Hill to commemorate Passchendale

EDGE Hill University will commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele with a song and piano recital and an audio-visual installation.

The event, which will take place at the university's Arts Centre on Friday (November 10) starting at 7pm, will remember all of those who lost their lives in the battle, one of the bloodiest of the First World War, irrespective of nationality.

The performance will feature Edge Hill's senior lecturer in musical theatre, Aniko Toth as soprano; music writer and teacher, Stuart O'Hara as tenor, and associate tutor, Lauryna Sableviciute on piano.

As well as the music performance the university will also host Rains of Steel and Water, a new immersive audio visual installation created by the university's professors of performing arts, Helen Newall and Stephen Davismoon. The exhibition is derived from carefully collated images and sounds from the fields of Passchendaele.

The event is free but booking is required through the university's website www.edgehill.ac.uk or by telephoning 01695 584480.

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Grave concerns prompt church plea to families

Priest urges relatives of deceased to check their headstones

OFFICIALS of a church in Ormskirk are appealing for families with relatives buried in its graveyard to contact them after concerns were raised about the condition of a number of headstones.

Following a recent survey of the St Anne's RC Church graveyard in Prescot Road, a number of memorials have been identified as requiring immediate attention.

Although some families have already taken steps to make their headstones safe, parish priest, Father Godric Timney is appealing for people who have relatives buried there to contact the parish office to check if their loved one's memorials also require work.

The office can be contacted by telephone on 01695 572168 or by email at paxorm@btconnect.com.

Father Godric Timney is appealing for families to make sure their relatives' headstones are safe

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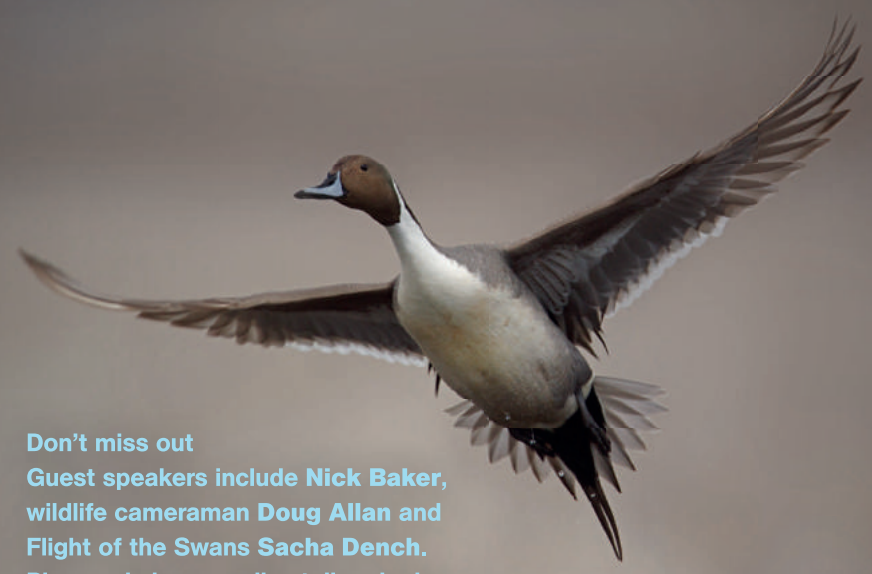

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Knitters click with novel comfort for dementia patients

Hospital staff launch appeal for more twiddle muffs!

STAFF at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust are appealing for local knitters to get clicking to help provide dementia patients with a novel source of comfort!

Twiddle muffs are knitted or crocheted tubes with accessories, such as ribbons or buttons, sewn into them and for many people with dementia they can be a source of comfort.

As well as providing warmth and security, they keep hands and minds occupied, and can help decrease agitation.

The muffs can also stimulate conversation and are a useful way to hide any tubes or wires which a patient may attempt to remove.

Local knitters have been busy knitting twiddle muffs but Southport and Ormskirk hospitals need a constant supply as each muff can only be used by a single patient who is encouraged to take it home.

Barbara Weldrake gets to work creating another of the twiddle muffs

Barbara Weldrake was one of the first twiddle muff-knitters.

She said: "I saw an article in a knitting magazine about twiddle muffs being used elsewhere in the country and approached an occupational therapist at the hospital. They thought it was a great idea so I started to make them.

"Then I took them along to my knitting group and some of the other ladies started doing them too!"

Ann Burket also makes twiddle muffs and started making them after completing treatment for cancer.

Focus

She said: "Knitting the twiddle muffs provides a distraction to my pain and is helping my recovery by giving me a focus and improving my concentration.

"Also, it brings great satisfaction to know I am helping and providing comfort to the dementia patients.

"They are easy and fun to make and I would recommend anyone to have a go."

Anyone wishing to get involved making a twiddle muff can contact Michelle Kitson, Matron for Patient Experience on 01704 704094 or by email at michelle.kitson@nhs.net; or occupational therapist Sally Nichol on 01704 704889, email sally.nicol@nhs.net.

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New award aims to celebrate 'amazing' health professionals

Chance for public to recognise care teams or individuals who go the extra mile

RESIDENTS across Lancashire are being given the opportunity to recognise the hard work of health professionals who have made a difference to their healthcare experience by nominating them for the new Amazing Care Award.

This new award allows members of the public and Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust members to nominate a team, individual or service who they feel should be recognised for providing amazing care.

Often little things can make a big difference to patients and their families and nominations should include examples of where this has been the case.

Organisers are looking for nominations that are an inspiration to others, demonstrate commitment and determination and always go that extra mile!

The trust holds an annual staff awards ceremony to celebrate the success of its members of staff. Now, as part of ceremony, it is reaching out to local residents for nominations for this year's Amazing Care Award.

The winner of the award will be announced in March 2018 at the awards ceremony at the De Vere Heron's Reach Hotel in Blackpool.

Dee Roach

Dee Roach, Executive Director of Nursing and Quality at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The Amazing Care Award is a brand new award launching as part of this year's staff awards.

Excited

"The award is unique in that it is the only one where the winner is chosen by the people in Lancashire.

"It is so important to us that we provide the people that we serve the opportunity to recognise an individual or team who has demonstrated excellent patient care and made their Lancashire Care experience a positive one.

"We are truly privileged to have so many kind and compassionate members of staff working here and we hope that people across the county who have received our care will take five minutes out of their time to submit a nomination.

"We are extremely excited about this new award and look forward to receiving nominations about the fantastic patient care our staff provide on a regular basis."

To nominate visit www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/amazing-care-award-2018 and complete an online form. If you don't have access to a computer, contact the Communications Team on 01772 695384 to request a hard copy. Deadline for nominations is midnight on Wednesday, December 6 and the shortlist will be announced in the new year when members of the public can vote for who they would like to win.

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Martin Mere news

Have a great day out at the North West Bird Watching Festival at WWT Martin Mere

TV presenter Nick Baker, wildlife cameraman Doug Allan, Matt Sewell and Flight of the Swans' Sacha Dench are just some of the guest speakers visiting WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre for the annual extravaganza: North West Bird Watching Festival on Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 November.

Whether you're a group of photographers, birdwatchers or you all just love the outdoors, there is something for everyone at this event in Burscough, Ormskirk.

You can attend a range of wildlife talks and seminars; see hundreds of Whooper swans feed alongside shelduck, teal, wigeon and thousands of Pink-footed geese; pick up tips from photography seminars and workshops; see demonstrations; network with experts to learn more about our feathered friends; browse through lots of wildlife and bird watching goodies including clothing, books, carvings, wildlife holidays and much more; and round your day off with some delicious homemade cake at the Mere Side Cafe.

Highlights for you and your group at the bird watching festival at WWT Martin Mere include:

· Having access to the reserve from 8am, offering your group the chance to watch and photograph tens of thousands of pink-footed geese and Whooper swans as they awake and leave their roost

· Seeing the award winning spectacle with hundreds of Whooper swans feeding right in front of them on the mere, as well as thousands of shelduck, wigeon and teal, at 3pm from the new 50m Discovery hide which also includes a warden's talk.

· Access to free ringing demonstration workshops allowing you to get up close to some wonderful species

· Walks with Reserve Manager Tom Clare and Nick Baker to find the top ten species at Martin Mere at this time of year

· Testing your group's birdwatching skills by seeing who can spot the most species at Martin Mere between 9.30 – 3.30 on Saturday 18 November to win prizes.

· Attend 4K and digi-scoping seminars with award winning photographer, Pro Lumix Ambassador and one of the best known digi-scopers in the birding world Paul Hackett

For further event information, workshop bookings and a detailed list of exhibitors, please visit: www.wwt.org.uk/nwbf.

WWT Martin Mere is open for this event from 9.30am to 4.30pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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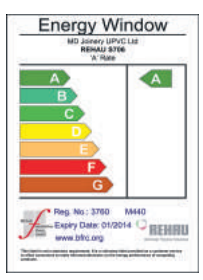

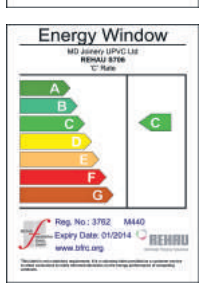

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Musical memories...The Rebels performing at Ormskirk YPC in 1963.

Rockin' back in time to aid cancer fight

THERE'S a chance to take a musical trip back in time and raise money for a good cause at the same time when Rockin' at the YPC returns for a 13th show at The Civic in Southport Road, Ormskirk on Saturday, November 25.

Themed to recreate the atmosphere of that local haven of youth in the 1960s, the Ormskirk Young Peoples Club - affectionately known as The YPC - the show aims to revive the Rock 'n' Roll Years, Mersey Beat, and The Swinging 60s.

And the event, which runs from 7.30pm till late, is also a fundraiser in aid of Stand Up To Cancer and Cancer Research UK.

Since the first gig in October 2010, thousands of pounds have been raised from the six-monthly events to help in the fight against cancer.

The show will again be headlined by Shooter, with special guests Merseycats' own Norman Petherbridge, Sue Raymond of The Sue Raymond Band, and Ritchie Thompson, who regularly played at YPC in the 1960s with his band The Shards.

Other bands featured will be YPC resident band The Rebels and favourites The Topspots.

Admission on the night will be £12 but tickets can be bought in advance for £10 from The Civic, tel. 01695 576607 or email info@ormskirk-civichall.co.uk; and from Hesfords DIY, Moorgate, Ormskirk, tel. 01695 572564.

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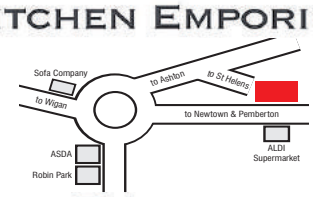

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Surely it's only fair that student landlords should be taxed on business properties?

AS a lifelong Labour supporter I was appalled at the decision of the council not to back the motion by Councillor Adrian Owens that student landlords should be subjected to business rates.

Whether the amount of money lost to the council each year in council tax on the properties owned by these landlords is £1.3 million, as per Cllr. Owens, or the £150k, as suggested by Cllr. Adam Yates, it is still a substantial amount which could be utilised for the benefit of West Lancs residents.

However, it is not just the amount of money lost to the council each year but also the absolute unfairness of the whole system, which makes me so angry.

As Cllr. Owens points out, most of the other businesses in West Lancashire pay property tax via the business rate system.

As landlords renting out properties constitute a 'business' it is only fair that they should pay either council tax or business rates on their business properties.

Furthermore, it doesn't follow that landlords would have to increase rents if they had to pay this tax.

They could, being decent people, just accept slightly lower profits!

I, for one, will definitely be signing Cllr. Owens' petition to the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding this anomaly in our tax system, and I urge every other fair-minded, council tax-paying resident of West Lancashire to do so too.

Janice Jowett,
Ormskirk

Time to stop moaning and accept EU vote result - it's called democracy!

IN response to RW's letter in the Champion (October 25) and the plea to cancel the EU referendum result because (in their words) "just 37%" of the electorate voted for Brexit, I'd like to point out a few uncomfortable truths.

The EU's de facto leader, German Chancellor Angela Merkel was this year elected with the votes of only 25% of Germany's electorate.

And Tony Blair's much-heralded 'landslide' election victory in 1997 was garnered with the help of just 30% of the electorate. His massive 179-seat majority was achieved with 70% of the British electorate not voting for him - and that's a mandate?

It will come as no surprise to RW that I am one of those Brexiteering old fogeys; you know, one of those selfish people who has apparently stolen the futures of our young people.

Actually, it's my second referendum vote on Europe. The first one I voted in was as a youthful 21-year-old in 1975.

Then, as in 2016, I voted to leave the then EEC. Unfortunately, it was not to be as Remain won.

Who knows, the old fogeys of 1975 may have believed all the lies being told at the time and voted to Remain - and in doing so, they effectively stole my future, didn't they RW?

And wouldn't you know, the decision to stay in '75 was achieved with the votes of 43% (yes, just 43%) of the electorate.

My advice to RW, instead of stamping your feet because it's just so unfair and all that, accept the result, as I and millions of other Brexiteers did in 1975.

It's a democracy thing - not perfect, but the best we have. We have voted to leave, let's get on with it.

S. Garrett, Burscough

Remainers' attitude is condescending

I AM getting tired of 'Remoaners' like R.W. batting on about us misguided oldies selling out the future of the younger generation.

This attitude is condescending, if not downright insulting. I, and many people that I know, did not vote to leave because of so-called false promises, and he/she may recall that there were some pretty extravagant forecasts pedalled by the Remain camp.

Being old enough to remember a bit of history, I know the country (myself included) voted to join the Common Market, not the conglomerate governance that it has grown into.

I voted Leave so that we would have a chance to regain some semblance of national self-respect rather than being ruled by a bunch of self-serving bureaucrats who have created the longest and fattest gravy train ever.

It seems that R.W. is a great believer in democracy provided it gives the result that he/she agrees with.

Well, it's time to stop moaning and start accepting the Referendum result and if we all pull together then maybe, just maybe, we can create a better future for the generations to come.

Eric Beaumont, Ormskirk

PICTURE of the week

Gulls take their turn waiting for a vacant perch on the ornamental lamps which adorn the Marine Lake Venetian Bridge. Picture by Martyn Snape.

We want no part of Euro 'super state'

I REFER to the letter in the Champion on Wednesday, October 25 regarding the EU referendum vote.

This letter, written by a 'remoaner' is advocating a pause in Brexit proceedings. What good will this do?

The ultimate aim of the EU is a federal states of Europe. If we remain we will become a part of the super state, which is losing even more of our national identity.

Ormskirk resident

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the addresses listed above.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Parking policy exposes centre's claims about providing leisure facilities for town

THE Concourse has promised Skelmersdale a cinema and restaurants but their new parking policy has exposed this as a lie.

An afternoon shopping followed by a main feature film sounds good, add on to that an evening meal and you could be well into the four hours free parking.

Even so, the prospect of a £100 fine will ruin anyone's appetite. Their objections to the High Street plans can now be seen as a 'dog in the manger' attitude.

They have no intentions whatsoever of providing facilities for Skem. They have a monopoly and they intend to keep it.

Ged Norris, by email

Seeking to raise local awareness of campaign against pension inequality

HOW many readers are aware of the national campaign by the group, Women Against State Pension Inequality (or WASPI) who are fighting the injustice suffered by women born in the 1950s?

Many women, myself included, believe we were not given adequate notice of the equalisation of the state pension age and were still under the impression that we would reach our state pension age on our 60th birthday.

In fact, the government had twice changed the rules (in 1995 and 2011) without properly communicating these facts to around 3.4 million women affected, many of whom will have to wait another six years before receiving their state pension.

As a result of the lack of communication many women made decisions about their futures without being in possession of the full facts and as a consequence are in dire straights financially at a time when they had planned to retire.

WASPI are not asking the government to reverse this process and go back to the pension age of 60 for women, but to put in place fair transitional arrangements for women affected.

As a woman who is affected by this change I have been following the progress of WASPI and looked to join a local group within West Lancashire and was surprised to learn there wasn't one.

Consequently I am now a part of the Wigan and Makerfield WASP group who are active and campaigning locally but I am curious to know how many local women are actually aware of these changes and how their lives are, and will be, affected.

H. Walker, by email

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Safety in Town scheme aims to provide reassurance for the disabled and vulnerable

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A NEW scheme to improve safety for people with disabilities and anyone who feels vulnerable when out and about has been launched in Lancashire.

Safety in Town has been developed by the Lancashire Learning Disability Partnership Board (LLDPB) to ensure people can access welcoming and safe places to get help when they need it.

Libraries, shops, bus stations, community centres and other organisations have signed up to the scheme. They display the Safety in Town logo to let people know they are part of the programme.

County Councillor Peter Steen, Lancashire County Council's champion for disabled people, said: "Safety in Town is designed to reassure people as they will know there is always somewhere close by they can go for help if they need it.

"When they see any shops, bus stations and other buildings displaying the Safety in Town sticker, they can be reassured they will be welcomed by understanding people in a safe place who have had training about the issues that people with disabilities and anyone else who feels vulnerable may face.

"Staff will help by contacting your friends, family members or carers who can come to get you if you need support or by calling the police if you need to report any crimes or incidents. They will wait with you until help arrives."

'Tremendous support'

Safety in Town has been developed by people with disabilities who worked with LLDPB to outline what type of support they need while getting around.

Officers from Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Constabulary, Self Advocacy in Lancashire and other organisations who make up the board have been working with businesses, shops and other agencies to get the scheme up and running over the last two years.

They have also produced cards where people can keep their details handy in case they need to use them in a Safety in Town place.

County Councillor Steen added: "Shops, businesses and a range of organisations have shown tremendous support for Safety in Towns. They've been happy to display the signs and taken on board the tips we've given them about the type of support people will need.

"The more organisations who are on board with this scheme, the better it will be and I'd encourage even more to get in touch to support Safety in Town.

"We hope this scheme will help disabled people and anyone else who may feel vulnerable when getting around to stay safe while they're out and about around Lancashire."

For more information about the Safety in Town scheme, go to the website www.lldpb.org/stay-safe/safety-in-town/.

County Councillor Peter Steen at an event promoting the new Safety in Town scheme.

Public's views sought on use of Mission Hall

THE team managing a village community facility are seeking the public's views on how it can be used to better effect in the future.

The Four Lane Ends Mission Hall in Skelemersdale Road, Bickerstaffe was built in 1904 and is an integral part of community life, being used by many local groups and organisations.

Now though the Mission Team are looking to plan ahead and are inviting local residents and groups what they would like to see happen with the building.

Among the questions posed by the team are what kind of groups would you like to see use the building and what events would you like to see taking place there?

They also want to know what would persuade you or your group to use the hall and would you utilise a computer suite, function room or fully-equipped kitchen if available?

Anyone wishing to give feedback is asked to email westlancsedward@btinternet.com or telephone 07971 299696.

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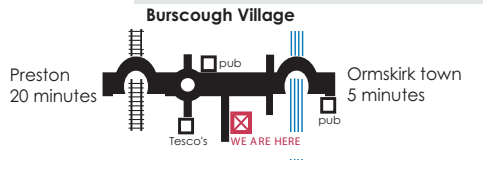

Chocolate makers taste sweet success in world awards

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A HUSBAND and wife team who set up as independent chocolate makers after suffering the blow of redundancy are celebrating the sweet taste of success in a competition contested by teams from all over the world.

Paul Williams set up Choc Amor in 2012 with wife Jacqui, when he was made redundant after 20 years of working in corporate finance.

Struggling to find another job at the height of the world financial crisis, he had the "mad" idea of setting up a chocolate company from the kitchen of their home in Mawdesley after reading an article online.

World class! Choc Amor director Paul Williams proudly holds aloft his bronze awards

Delighted

Since then the company, now based at the town's Cedar Farm Galleries, has gone from strength to strength, winning a total of 28 industry accolades and no fewer than 11 this year alone - including two bronze prizes at the International Chocolate Awards.

The awards feature national competitions worldwide with winners going forward to the finals in London which this year involved more than 2,000 entries.

Paul and his team Choc Amor earned their place at the event by winning four British awards.

Paul said: "We are absolutely delighted. Winning four awards at the British championships for our flavoured chocolate was great but to also win coveted world awards for two of those products - our Turkish Charm and Bitter Orange varieties - was just fantastic.

"And it's a real honour because only 10 UK companies won a world award this year.

"Huge thanks go to our team and to our customers for their continued support – we would never have got this far without them all!"

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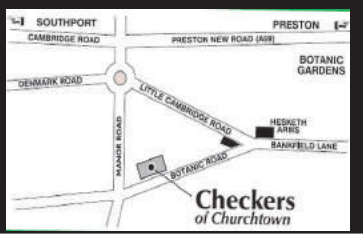

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Members of Christ Church, Aughton proudly display their Dementia Friends certificates

Customer service staff from West Lancs Council after attending the Dementia Friends session

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ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
11am & 1pm
Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club, Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club, Blaguegate Lane
9.15 & 11.15am
Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY
BURSCOUGH
Burscough British Legion, Lord Street
3.30pm 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

THURSDAY
AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut (behind Christ Church), Long Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Jackie: 07888 830892

FRIDAY
MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close (Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club
Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Hayley: 07583 762529
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Church group and council workers sign up to Dementia Friends scheme

MEMBERS of Christ Church, Aughton and emloyees of customer services at West Lancashire Borough Council are among the latest groups to sign up to the Dementia Friends initiative by attending an information session with local Dementia Friends Champion, Joe Sherville.

The friendly and interactive sessions aim to increase participants understanding of dementia and help them to think about the small things that they can do to make a difference to those affected by dementia in their community.

Following the sessions, which are organised by the Alzheimer's Society, participants receive certificates and are recognised as Dementia Friends.

Joe Sherville said: "This was another brilliant session which will help the West Lancashire community to become more dementia-friendly."

Edinburgh Woollen Mill competition winners

THE winners of the Champion's Edinburgh Woollen Mill competition for £50 worth of vouchers each were Andrea Lloyd from Birkdale; Brenda Walsh from Waterloo; Angela Willis, from Thornton; Linda O'Connor from Lydiate; Sheila Beeby from Bickerstaffe; and Lee Graham from Formby.

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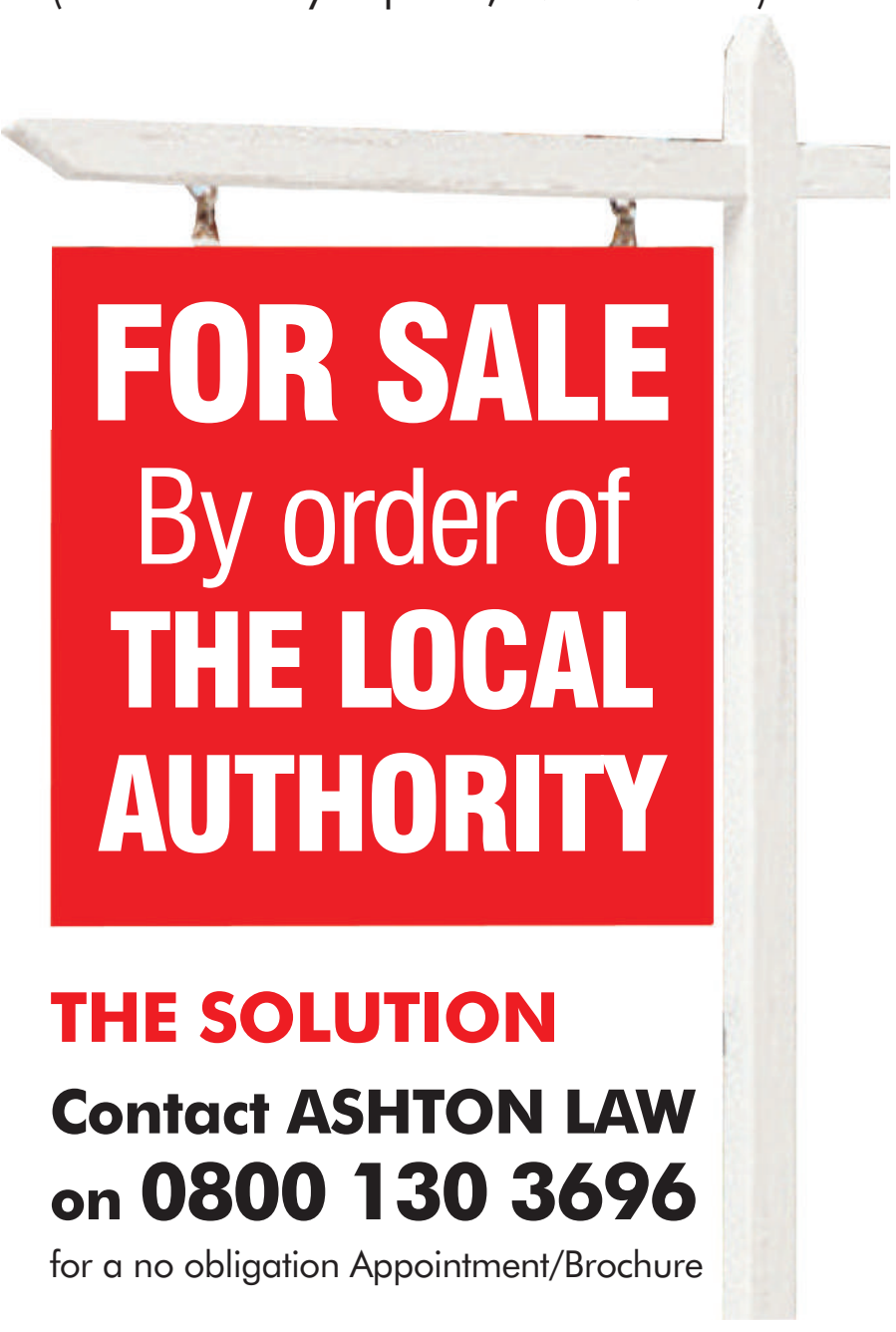

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County council appoint new interim chief executive

Angie Ridgwell

ANGIE Ridgwell has been appointed interim chief executive and director of resources at Lancashire County Council and is expected to take up her position in the New Year.

Ms Ridgwell has had a career working with a range of local authorities, government agencies and the private sector.

In her most recent role, she has been director general, corporate services at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, since October 2016.

Prior to that she was director general for finance and corporate cervices at the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

And before joining central government she was strategic director for corporate services and strategic director of organisational design for Bristol City Council and chief executive of Thurrock Council.

County council leader, Councillor Geoff Driver, said: "We had an excellent field of candidates and it is testament to Angie's considerable range of knowledge and experience that the committee felt able to appoint her.

"This is a crucial time for the county council, as we face an unprecedented financial challenge. Our restructure of senior management recognises that challenge and required us to find an exceptional candidate, someone who not only has highly developed skills as a visionary leader, but also has the necessary professional finance qualifications and experience of managing the finances of a major organisation.

"Angie fulfils both of those criteria and I'm confident that she can lead us through the implementation of the restructure, and more importantly, play a key role as we plan a positive course through the challenges we face to enable the county council to continue providing key services to the people of Lancashire."

Commenting on her appointment, Ms Ridgwell said: "I'm extremely proud to be joining Lancashire County Council, one of the largest local authorities in the country, in this exciting new role of interim chief executive and director of resources. I am under no illusions about the scale of the challenge ahead and I am sure that the county council's members and employees have the passion, commitment and expertise to rise to that challenge and continue to provide the services that the people of Lancashire value so much."

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CERTASS

Red letter day looms for Red Rose enthusiasts

Friends want to hear about your Lancashire Day celebrations

IF you are planning an event to mark Lancashire Day on November 27 a group of Red Rose enthusiasts want to hear from you.

Lancashire Day - which this year falls on a Monday - commemorates the day in 1295 when the first elected representatives from the county were summoned to Westminster by King Edward the 1st to attend what later became known as The Model Parliament and is recognised as the beginning of democracy in the country.

The Friends of Real Lancashire, a pressure group affiliated to the Association of British Counties calling for the wider recognition of the historic boundaries of Lancashire, are currently in the process of preparing a list of events being held throughout the county to celebrate the occasion, to be posted on their website.

A spokesperson for the group said: "We want to hear from people who have planned an event to take place on the day or during that week.

"As well as showing loyalty to our Red Rose county, Lancashire Day is an opportunity to raise money for charity and for businesses to promote Lancashire goods and produce.

"At the beginning of November details of events to mark this special day for Lancastrians are posted on our website, www.forl.co.uk, to inform people wishing to join in the celebrations where and when they are taking place.

The Lancashire Flag featuring the Red Rose

"These include Lancashire Day proclamations, Lancashire nights with traditional beer, hot-pot and entertainment, lunches, afternoon teas, shops with Lancashire produce, restaurants and cafes with a special Lancashire menu, exhibitions, heritage walks, quiz nights and reading of Lancashire dialect and proclamations.

"Remember, if you were born between the River Duddon in the north and the River Mersey in the south you are first and foremost a Lancastrian!

"Please email any events with full details and telephone contact number to chairman@forl.co.uk."

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Adoption information evening

LANCASHIRE County Council is staging another information event to help people in the county to find out about adoption and the process involved.

This will be held at County Hall, on Fishergate, Preston, from 6 to 7:30pm on Tuesday, November 14.

There is no need to book you can just turn up - but early arrival is recommended so that the presentation can start promptly and people attending are also asked to stay for the whole session.

To adopt, you must be over 21 and live in Lancashire or close by, whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status.

You can find out more about the information evening and the adoption process at www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption or by calling the adoption team on 0300 123 6723.

Care trust named in the UK's top 50 employers for diversity

LANCASHIRE Care NHS Foundation Trust has been listed as one of the UK's top 50 employers for its work in demonstrating a diverse and inclusive workplace, two years in a row.

As part of the Excellence in Diversity Awards, the trust has again been listed in 'The Inclusive Top 50 UK Employers List' for outstanding efforts and commitment to attracting and retaining a truly diverse workforce.

Compiled by a dedicated panel of judges, the list has been collated based on organisations' performance on a range of areas within the diversity arena, including recruitment procedures, training and other diversity-related initiatives.

Emma Allen

The Inclusive Top 50 Employers are keeping the official rankings a secret at the moment with each organisation's position to be revealed at the prestigious diversity awards on Thursday, November 30 at The Midland Hotel in Manchester.

Emma Allen, Equality and Diversity Project Manager at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Being recognised as one of The Inclusive Top 50 UK Employers demonstrates the trust's commitment of keeping people at the heart of everything we do.

"We truly value the individuals that work here and work so hard to ensure that we are as inclusive as possible by providing equal access and opportunities for all.

"We are so excited to have been listed for the second year running and to also be shortlisted for the Head of Diversity and Inclusion Award.

"It's a huge privilege to have our work recognised by Excellence in Diversity and we are really looking forward to the evening!"

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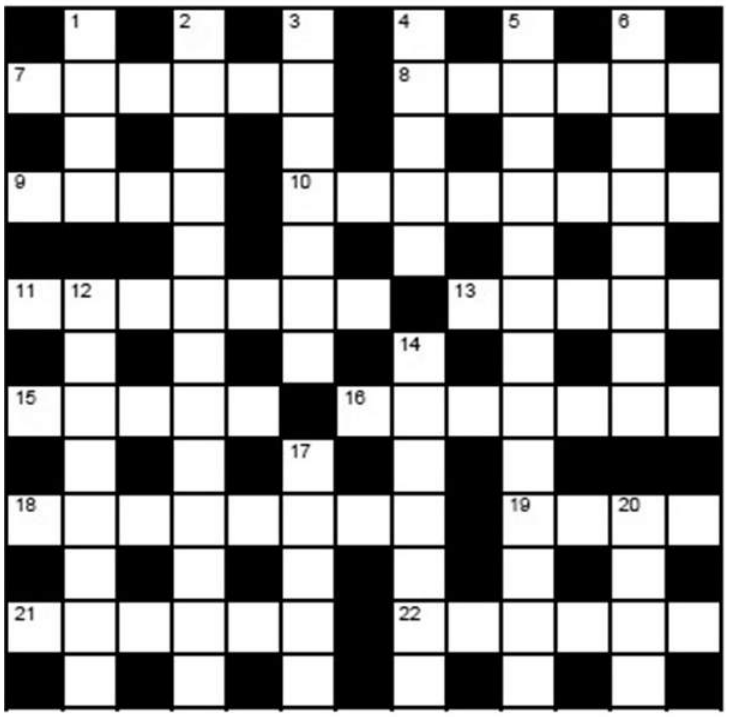

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Dispatch rider. 8. Literati. 9. Kick. 10. Thulium. 12. Trait. 14. Enemy. 16. Kick-off. 19. Ibex. 20. Constant. 22 Slippery slope.

Down: 1. Fiji. 2. Appeal. 3. Stratum. 4. Chair. 5. Bicker. 6. Kerchief. 11. Handbill. 13. Kidneys. 15. Mix-ups. 17. Kettle. 18. Octet. 21 Nape.

ACROSS

7. Filled with horror or shock (6)
8. A warning or proviso of specific stipulations, conditions, or limitations (6)
9. Deceased (4)
10. Undying (8)
11. Wrinkle and contract (7)
13. Rough-surfaced woollen cloth originally produced in Scotland (5)
15. Japanese dish of vinegar-flavoured cold rice garnished with vegetables, egg, or raw seafood (5)
16. Natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism (7)
18. Archaic term meaning generated by procreation (8)
19. Sharpen e.g. a blade (4)
21. Denoting more than one (5)
22. Basic or principal item, thing, feature, element, or part (5)

DOWN

1. Stare lecherously (4)
2. Advertising sign made of two placards connected by straps hung over a person's shoulders (8, 5)
3. Attacking player in a football team (7)
4. Mischievous child, rascal (5)
5. In all directions (5, 5, 3)
6. Cuban dance in slow duple time (8)
12. Common small flying insect occurring worldwide in and around human habitation (8)
14. Transparent, hard, protective finish or film primarily used in wood finishing (7)
17. The main stem of a herbaceous plant (5)
20. Having no legal or binding force, invalid (4)

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New governors wanted to be the 'voice' of West Lancs on county health body

A HEALTH and wellbeing provider is looking for people to be involved and represent their local area on its Council of Governors.

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust is seeking seven new governors to represent particular areas of the county - including two for West Lancashire.

Governors will be called upon to give advice and support, as well as having the opportunity to influence decision-making.

This year sees some changes to the structure of the Council of Governors, including revised public constituencies to reflect the new Local Delivery Partnership (LDP) areas.

A spokesperson for the trust said: "We are looking for seven new governors in four areas - Pennine Lancashire (1), Central Lancashire (1), West Lancashire (2) and North Lancashire & South Cumbria (3) - to be the point of contact for public members in their constituency and to act as the voice for their local area. The governors will play an important role in making sure that their views are fed back to directors and managers.

"We would also be pleased to hear from service users, carers, members of the public or other stakeholders who might be interested in putting their name forward for one of the public governor vacancies.

"This year we are particularly keen to attract new candidates for the West Lancashire constituency which includes Southport, Formby and St Helens, where the trust is now delivering services."

The closing date for nominations is Wednesday, November 15.

To be eligible to stand for election you should be 16 or over, live in one of the constituencies and be a registered Foundation Trust member.

If you are interested in standing for election yourself or would like to recommend a colleague, email Tony Slater at Lancashire Care's election partner Mi-Voice, lancashirecare@mi-voice.com for the full details and a link to the online nomination form.

To have a chat about what the role involves contact David Keddie, stakeholder engagement manager by email at david.keddie@lancashirecare.nhs.uk or by phone on 07534 605214.

For more information visit www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/governor-election-2017.

Members of Mawdesley U3A with some of the works which featured in their exhibition at the village hall

Art exhibition is big 'draw'...

MEMBERS of the Mawdesley University of the Third Age (U3A) art group were hoping to 'draw' the crowds when they held an exhibition of their work in Mawdesley Village Hall.

More than 100 original art works were on display covering a wide range of styles, media, and subject matter.

The group say the event was well attended, with many positive comments being made by visitors and some of the works were sold.

U3A is an active, social organisation for retired and semi-retired people and the Mawdesley U3A Group has more than 50 social activities ranging from art to woodcarving.

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Hurlston Hall Golf Club Lady Captain, Anita Hirandani (centre) and Captain, Owen McCann (centre right) with members at the Bollywood Night in aid of Cancer Research and The Liberty Centre.

Golfers 'glam' up for charities!

MEMBERS of Hurlston Hall Golf and Country Club and friends swapped their golf gear for a touch of oriental glamour when they staged a Bollywood Night in aid of two worthy causes.

The event at the club in Scarisbrick was held to raise money for the West Lancashire Women's Refuge, the Liberty Centre and North West Cancer Research.

County cabinet to review non-residential care charges

LANCASHIRE County Council's cabinet will discuss a review of non-residential care charges at its meeting tomorrow (Thursday, November 9).

These charges were last reviewed in 2011.

Non-residential care services support people with disabilities and elderly people to live as independently as possible in their community.

These county council-run services include home care, outreach services, day care, direct payment and personal budget services, supported living and the Shared Lives Scheme.

A consultation giving people the opportunity to share their views about the proposed changes will begin in early December subject to cabinet approval.

These changes would be introduced from April 2018.

The proposed charging policy calculates how much people may need to pay towards their non-residential care based on a comprehensive financial assessment.

In line with legislation and with the current policy, people will only be charged for non-residential care according to their assessed ability to pay.

Currently more than 51% of people receiving non-residential adult care services are either assessed as not having to pay, are funded by the NHS or are exempt under the Mental Health Act.

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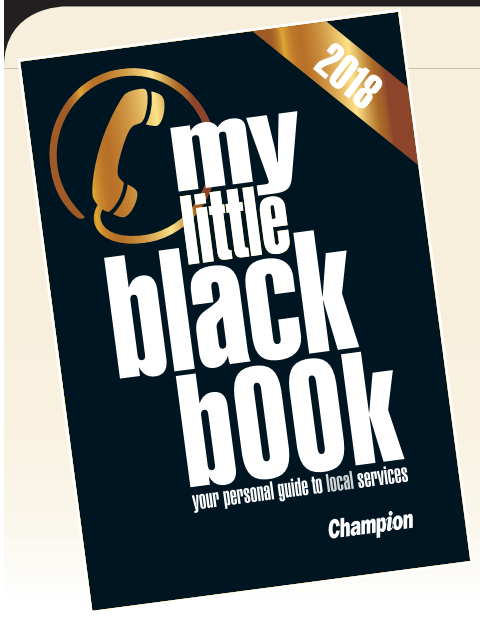

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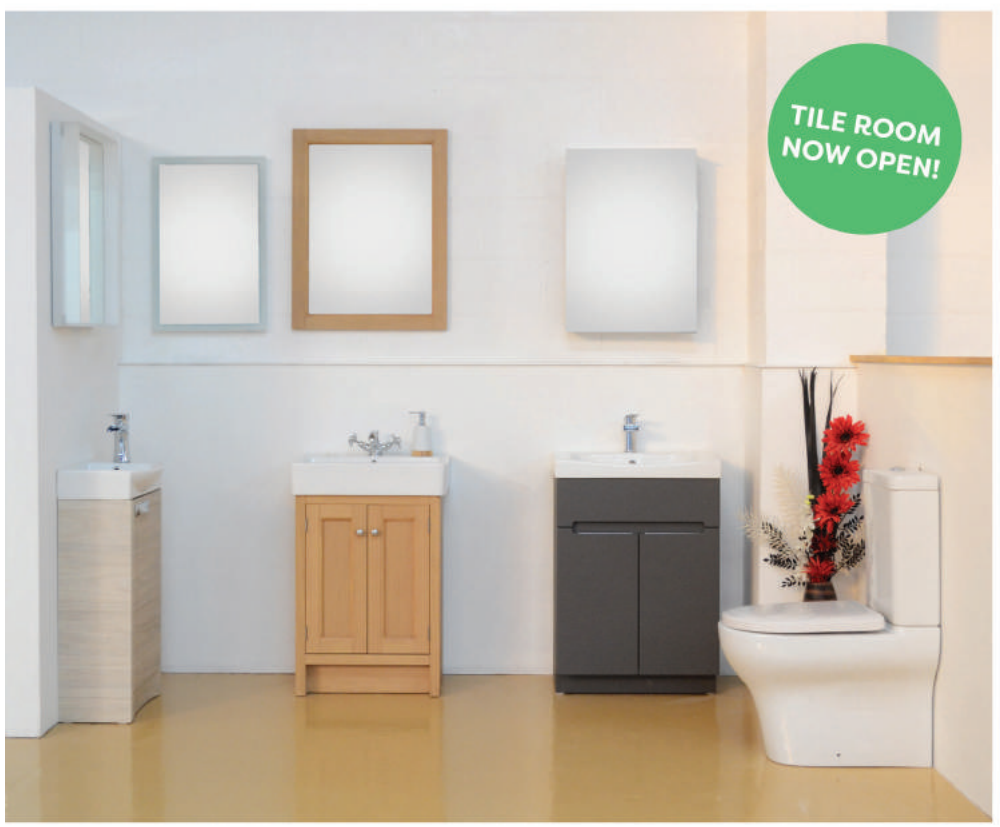

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Survey aims to improve mental health services

PEOPLE who use NHS community mental health services in Lancashire are being encouraged to take part in a survey aimed at driving future improvements.

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust is carrying out the 2018 Community Mental Health Survey to find out what service-users think about the care they receive in order to improve their experiences.

The survey is led by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as part of a national programme to improve mental health services for local populations.

It will be sent to 850 people aged 18 and over who have recently used the trust's services. The results will help the trust see where they are performing well and to identify any areas where there is room for improvement.

Those chosen to take part will receive a copy of the questionnaire to complete between February and June. The results will be presented in a way that individuals' answers can't be identified and will be published by the CQC in November.

For queries or concerns about the survey contact the Quality Improvement Team on 01772 695366 or email involvement@lancashirecare.nhs.uk.

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Self-checkouts are not for me - I prefer the human touch!

WHAT do you think about these self-service automated checkouts which seem now to have spread from supermarkets into all kinds of other venues, including a well-known national chain of newspapers, magazines, stationery and much else?

Personally, I loathe the things. I am thick enough not to be able always to follow the instructions, either of the printed variety or that irritating electronic voice. And I'm damned if I'll be shouted at by a machine.

I mean, would you put up with it if a human cashier were to yell at you "give me your notes and small change NOW!"; or "bung your credit card in AT ONCE!" while all around could hear your shame at being so stupid?

I have no objection to the installation of these infernal machines for those who fully embrace modern technology. I recognise that for some they speed the process and avoid the checkout queues.

They are not for me though - nor for many apparently like-minded folk who prefer the human touch.

No, what really annoys me is that at least one major supermarket I use, has apparently closed its 'basket only' checkout in an attempt to persuade customers such as I to change our ways, see the light and use the electronic machines.

This might just make commercial sense if it meant that at least one fewer checkout persons would be needed. But it doesn't - because in any large supermarket one or more staff have always to be on hand for when thickies like me eventually admit defeat and press the 'help' button.

It's interesting also to compare the attitude of staff to this electronic innovation. In one branch I use of the newspaper store mentioned there is a chappie on the tills who more or less orders you to use the machine if you merely want to pay for your magazine or quiz book (as opposed to muck about with the Lotto which apparently is too important to be machine-operated).

Yet in a different branch of the same chain, staff obviously don't appreciate these machines at all, perhaps because they so often have to break off serving their customers to go to the aid of someone stranded in the digital marvel designed to save both staff and customer time. In fact, at that branch the two electronic marvels seem often either to be out of service or have various items - no doubt accidentally - piled on their working surface.

Strangely, perhaps, I don't think a Luddite approach is either a good, or even desirable course of action. As I said, I can see a place for these automats for those who want and understand them.

Personally though, quite apart from not wanting or understanding them, I rather enjoy queuing at the checkout (providing the queue is not enormous) and human interchange of words with fellow shoppers and the person operating the checkout.

And if the supermarket I referred to thinks that most of the people who used to use the 'basket only' till now use the self-checkout, they should take a look at their tobacco/lottery kiosk which also accepts up to eight items for checkout. Many people these days who used to use the 'basket only' checkout now prefer to queue at the tobacco kiosk, meaning that there are often two staff members on duty there instead of one.

So a heartfelt plea to all medium and large shops which have installed self-serve machines, no doubt with the best of intentions. Please, please, retain or reinstate your staffed checkouts for those of us with only a relatively small shop but who still appreciate a bit of good old-fashioned personal service.

County council in new drive to recruit more foster carers

LANCASHIRE County Council chiefs are stepping up the drive to recruit more foster carers by holding another of their special information evenings on Wednesday, November 15 at County Hall, Preston, from 6 to 7.30pm.

With around 20 children in the county coming into care each week and needing urgent foster care placements, the information evening is part of a county council campaign to attract local people and families to step forward and find out more.

Members of the county council's fostering team, as well as social workers and current foster carers, will be available to answer questions, talk people through the process, and offer advice.

The authority has recently increased the allowances payable to new foster carers, so now they can expect to receive between £241 and £415 per week for each child they care for.

People who have considered fostering before but weren't sure they could afford it are advised to come along to an information evening and find out if it could now be a viable option.

County Councillor Susie Charles

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "With around 20 Lancashire children needing homes each week, we need to recruit new foster carers.

"In Lancashire, we have 1,923 children in our care and we need more people to provide the support and stable homes that these children and young people need to really thrive.

"We have increased our allowances to foster carers this year in recognition of their valuable role in providing loving homes for the children in our care. There is also a rising demand for placements with more children and young people coming into the care of the local authority each week.

"We are looking for people who can foster all ages of children, particularly siblings who need to stay together and teenagers. No formal experience or qualifications are needed, all we ask is that you have a spare room available and a desire to make a difference to a local child's life.

"We know that fostering doesn't just improve the lives of the children and young people who are fostered, it also has the power to enrich the lives of foster carers, their families and all those involved in fostering.

"If you are interested in fostering then your local authority is the best place to find out more. More people turn to local authorities than any other fostering provider. Foster carers across the county are benefiting from the local support and training we provide.

"We are always looking for new foster carers to look after the range of children who come into our care each week, with the greatest need being for foster carers for older children, sibling groups and children with additional needs.

"Hopefully the messages of our campaign will encourage people to come forward."

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Reservist's tribute to young solider killed in tragic wartime accident

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A MILITARY reservist from West Lancashire has paid his own tribute to a young solider killed in a tragic accident just a week after signing up to serve in the First World War and without ever leaving these shores.

Ian Williams from Ormskirk, a reservist with 103 Regiment Royal Artillery, decided to pay his respects to fellow artilleryman 20-year-old Louis Morrice after reading about his tragic story in a book about the 1914-18 war.

Louis, who is buried at the Ford Cemetery in Litherland, was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow member of the 1st Lancashire Brigade Royal Artillery.

The recruits were searching woods near to their garrison at Bidston Hill, Wirral for a suspected trespasser at a time when the country was gripped by heightened suspicion and fears of German spies.

Ian, who works for Skelmersdale-based charity, Twinkle House Wellness and Sensory Centre for children with special needs and their families, said: "Louis is buried only a few miles from where I live and I read about him in a book about Liverpool's part in the Great War and the sacrifices local people made on home soil, not just with the local regiments and Pals Battalions fighting on the Western Front.

"I found Louis's story very touching and as a fellow artilleryman I felt compelled to research it further and pay my respects by placing a poppy cross on his grave.

Ian lays his poppy cross tribute at the grave of tragic young solider, Louis Morrice

"He was killed in the line of duty, despite never having left his native soil."

Ian learned that there was a great outpouring of public sympathy for the tragic young soldier at the time and he was buried with full military honours, a three-volley gunfire and a bugler playing The Last Post at his graveside.

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Care group staff and Dementia Champion Joe win awards

STAFF from a healthcare group based in West Lancashire and Sefton, along with a volunteer from Skelmersdale, have been named winners in a national care awards.

The chief executive and five members of staff from the Athena Health Care Group, which runs care homes in both boroughs, and West Lancs Dementia Champion, Joe Sherville, had been nominated in a total of eight categories of the Great British Care Awards.

The results were announced at a ceremony in Manchester on Friday (November 3) and saw Joe Sherville win the Unpaid Carer Award for the North West; Fouad Saad voted Best Newcomer Care Worker; Fiona Cassels take the Care Trainer Award; and Lesley Malone, named Care Innovator North West winner.

Meanwhile, runners-up included Athena's chief executive, Steven Wylie in the Employer of the Year category; Elizabeth Littlejohns (Good Nurse Award); Benn Mott (Care Home Manager); and Lesley Malone in the Front Line Leader Award.

Staff at Athena launched a Community Activities Hub earlier this year to bring together care home residents from both areas to make friends and enjoy day trips out, as well as seeking to keep older people active within the community.

Pictured with their awards are (from left): Benn Mott, Fiona Cassells, Fouad Saad, Lesley Malone and Joe Sherville

Tina Whewell

Recognised for turning 'losers' into winners!

WEIGHT loss expert Tina Whewell is celebrating after being recognised for the exceptional work she does to support people in West Lancashire to achieve their dream weight.

She was one of around 80 high-achieving team developers from across the UK and Ireland invited to Slimming World's 'Team Developer Thank You Day' held in Derbyshire.

A consultant for the Ormskirk Slimming World groups who graduated from the Slimming World Academy in 1993, Tina was recognised for the "exceptional job" she is doing in managing other consultants in West Lancashire to ensure excellent service to slimmers right across the area.

As part of the day, she was invited to discuss best practice and share her tips on delivering a first-class weight management service and ideas for building and managing successful local teams that aim to help members lead healthier and happier lives.

The guests also heard from some of the organisation's most successful weight loss consultants from across the UK, were treated to a healthy banquet and met Slimming World's founder, Margaret Miles-Bramwell, who congratulated them on their achievements.

Tina said: "It was an honour to be invited to the special day at Slimming World HQ - when the event invite dropped through my letterbox I was over the moon!

"The day was so inspirational from start to finish, the opportunity to meet and share ideas with other top-performing consultants and managers was an experience I'll never forget.

"I left brimming with tips and ideas and there's no doubt the insight will enable me to improve the support I give to other consultants in the area.

"Being recognised isn't just a triumph for me, but also for the 1,800 members and consultants in the West Lancashire groups.

"They're the ones who make each group the success it is, with their fabulous energy, the warm welcome they give to new members and the wonderful compassionate support they show to each other every week.

"Members who arrive at group with their self-esteem at rock bottom start to hold their heads high and stand tall as they lose weight successfully and are encouraged and supported to make changes by the rest of the group."

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WORLD NURSERY

A SAILOR WENT TO SEA

A sailor went to sea, sea, sea
To see what he could see, see, see
But all that he could see, see, see
Was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea!

A sailor went to knee, knee, knee
To see what he could knee, knee, knee
But all that he could knee, knee, knee
Was the bottom of the deep blue knee, knee, knee!
(Sea, sea, sea)

A sailor went to chop, chop, chop
To see what he could chop, chop, chop
But all that he could chop, chop, chop
Was the bottom of the deep blue chop, chop, chop!
(Sea, sea, sea)
(Knee, knee, knee)

BRUSH, BRUSH, BRUSH YOUR TEETH

Brush Brush Brush Your Teeth,
Brush them every day!
Father, Mother, Brother, Sister,
Brush them every day!

Brush Brush Brush Your Teeth,
Brush them every day!
Father, Mother, Brother, Sister,
Brush them every day!

HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE

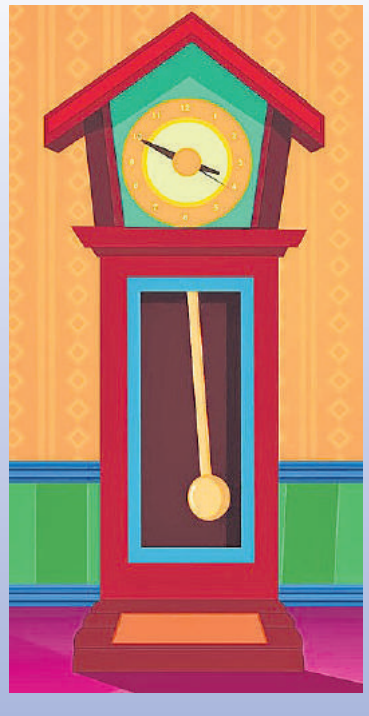
Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle
The cow jumped over the moon
The little dog laughed to see such fun
And the dish ran away with the spoon!

Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle
The cow jumped over the moon
The little dog laughed to see such fun
And the dish ran away with the spoon!

I'M A LITTLE TEAPOT

I'm a little teapot
Short and stout
Here is my handle
Here is my spout
When I get all steamed up
Hear me shout
Just tip me over and pour me out!

I'm a special teapot
Yes, it's true
Here's an example of what I can do
I can turn my handle into a spout
Just tip me over and pour me out!



HICKORY DICKORY DOCK

Hickory, dickory, dock
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one
The mouse ran down
Hickory, dickory, dock.

Hickory, dickory, dock
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck two
And down he flew
Hickory, dickory, dock.

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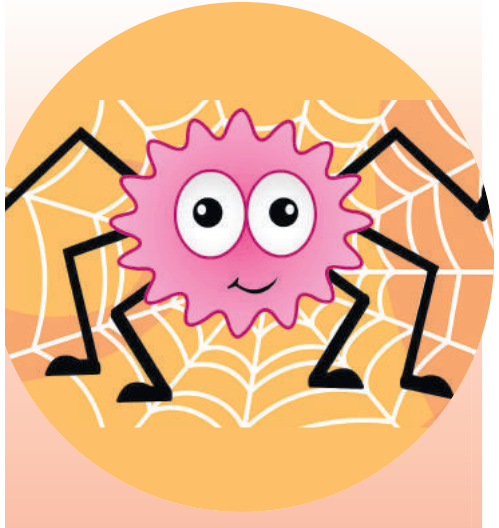

ITSY BITSY SPIDER

The itsy bitsy spider
went up the water spout.

Down came the rain,
and washed the spider out.

Up came the sun,
and dried up all the rain,

and the itsy bitsy spider
went up the spout again.

MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY

Mary, Mary, quite contrary
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells,
And cockle shells,
And pretty maids all in a row.

Mary, Mary, quite contrary
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells,
And cockle shells,
And pretty maids all in a row.

ORANGES AND LEMONS

Oranges and lemons,
Say the bells of St.Clement's.

You owe me five farthings,
Say the bells of St.Martin's.

When will you pay me?
Say the bells of Old Bailey.

When I get rich,
Say the bells of Shoreditch.

When will that be?
Say the bells of Stepney.

I'm sure I do not know,
Says the great bell of Bow.

THIS LITTLE PIGGY

This little piggy went to market
This little piggy stayed at home
This little piggy had roast beef
This little piggy had none
And this little piggy went
"Wee, Wee, Wee" all the way home!

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Wrap Around
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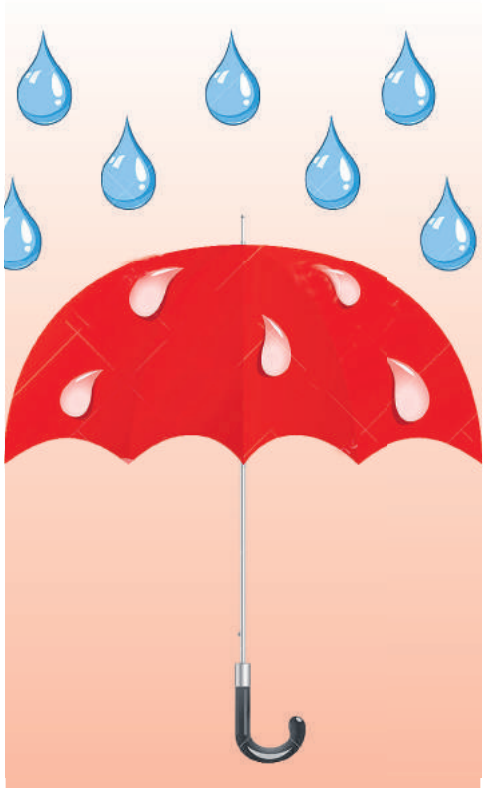

IT'S RAINING IT'S POURING

It's raining, it's pouring.
The old man is snoring.
He bumped his head and went to bed
And he couldn't get up
in the morning.

It's raining, it's pouring.
The old man is snoring.
He bumped his head and went to bed
And he couldn't get up
in the morning.

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New adaptation of classic

CHAPTERHOUSE Theatre Company is touring a new adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic festive tale, A Christmas Carol.

Especially adapted for the stage by award-winning writer Laura Turner, A Christmas Carol will tour theatres and stately homes across the UK and Ireland, throughout the 2017 Christmas season.

The show can be see at The Atkinson in Southport on Friday, December 8 at 1pm and 7.30pm.

On Christmas Eve, the most magical night of the year, the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is whisked away on a terrifying journey through the past and into the future, accompanied by three fearsome ghosts determined to make him realize the true meaning of Christmas. Charles Dickens' classic ghost story is brought alive.

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Mon 20th	Christmas @ Chatsworth House & Market *inc admission*	£32.90
Wed 22nd	Calf's Head Christmas Lunch & Carol Singing *inc lunch*	£31.90
Thu 23rd	'Greatdays Out' Mamma Mia Christmas Party Show	£37.90
Fri 24th	Boundary Mill for Black Friday Event	£12.90
Sat 25th	Ulverston Dickensian Christmas Festival	£15.90
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War Horse galloping into Liverpool Empire

Ben Ingles (Lt. Nicholls), Tom Quinn, Domonic Ramsden & Nicky Cross (Joey). NT War Horse Tour 2017-2018. Photo by Brinkhoff & Mögenburg

THE National Theatre's acclaimed production of War Horse, has begun a major tour of the UK and will be coming to the Empire Theatre, Liverpool from (Wednesday, November 15 to Saturday, December 2).

The tour of War Horse coincides with the Centenary commemorations of the end of the First World War and follows the production's enormously successful tour of the UK and Ireland in 2013-2014.

Thomas Dennis, fresh from playing Christopher Boone in the National Theatre's West End production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time will play the central role of Albert Narracott with fellow Curious cast member Jo Castleton as his mother Rose Narracott. Celebrated folk musician, Bob Fox, returns as Song Man.

War Horse, which has been seen by over seven million people worldwide, completed its record-breaking eight year London run at the New London Theatre on March 12 2016. It has won 25 awards including the Tony Award for Best Play on Broadway.

Directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris, Nick Stafford's adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's remarkable story of courage, loyalty and friendship, about a young boy called Albert and his horse Joey, set against the backdrop of the First World War is the most successful play in the National Theatre's history. It features ground-breaking puppetry work by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, which brings breathing, galloping horses to life on stage.

War Horse received its world premiere on October 9 2007 at the National Theatre, where it played for two seasons before opening at the New London Theatre in March 2009. Since then, War Horse has been seen in 97 cities in 10 countries, including productions on Broadway, in Toronto and Berlin, with touring productions in the UK and Ireland, North America, the Netherlands, Belgium and China.

Michael Morpurgo said: "After a few months rest, out at pasture, Joey, the War Horse and his great team from the National Theatre, will be touring the UK again, from 2017 through to 2019 and the centenary of the end of the First World War, taking their show all over the country, to towns and cities, many of them places War Horse has not been seen before. I am so pleased this is happening; that so many more people will have the chance to enjoy this unique theatrical event. Steady boy, steady Joey. Trot on!"

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Orchestra presenting all English Concert

THE Southport Orchestra will present an all English Concert this autumn at the Emmanuel Parish Church, Cambridge Road, Southport PR9 9PR on Saturday, November 25 commencing at 7.30pm.

Organisers have said the programme of music to be played, "is as exciting as it is spectacular" for the Orchestra members have never attempted a collection of purely English music such as will be included in this concert.

Some of the pieces like Edward Elgar's hauntingly beautiful cello concerto in E minor and the tone poem The Banks of Green Willow by George Butterworth will be familiar to most.

The orchestra are delighted to welcome once again to play with them, this time in the Elgar concerto, Gregor Cuff who excels as soloist. The dance La Calinda from the Opera Koanga by Frederick Delius is another well known work.

Other works to be performed is the Bucolic Suite by Vaughan Williams, a Tune Piece by Ted Kirk and an especially composed piece by Hilary Burgoyne, is a Song for Lesley as a tribute to the late leader of this fine local orchestra.

The players will be led by Melanie Foster and the performance will be directed by Jeff Rimmer.

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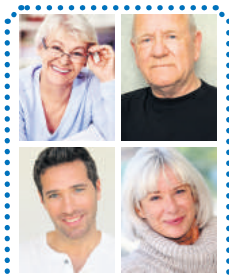

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THEATRES

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Thursday 9th
BOWIE EXPERIENCE - THE GOLDEN YEARS TOUR
Saturday 11th
DR HOOK Featuring DENNIS LOCORRIERE
Saturday 18th
JIMMY CARR
Tuesday 21st
ISLANDS IN THE STREAM
Thursday 23rd
THE SENSATIONAL 60's EXPERIENCE – MIKE PENDER, CHRIS FARLOWE, HERMAN'S HERMITS, THE FORTUNES and NEW AMEN CORNER
Friday 24th
KEN DODD HAPPINESS SHOW
Saturday 25th
ROY WOOD ROCK & ROLL BAND
Thursday 30th

December
ROB BRYDON - I AM STANDING UP
Friday 1st
CHRISTMAS MEMORIES
A nostalgic afternoon of entertainment
Wednesday 6th 2.30pm
(Floral Hall)
DANIEL O'DONNELL
Saturday 9th

January
ABBA MANIA
Saturday 13th
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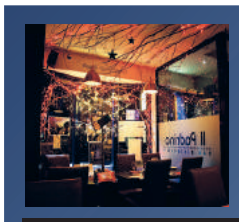

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CLOTHING

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CHIFFON DRESS Ladies with matching 3/4 length jacket. Size 16, never worn. Cost £100. Accept £25. Ideal for special occasion colour light grey 0151 9201013

COMPUTING

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APPLE MACBOOK Air II, like new hardly used, bought July 16, service expires July 19, £450 ono 01704 871462

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AMAZON FIRESTICK Wanted will pay £10 01515319425/07773242918

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BEDROOM FURNITURE White shabby chic dressing table with stool and bedside table. £35 for both. 07540769426

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EXTENDING TABLE 5ft extending to 6ft cream table 4 chairs with brown seats Excellent condition 60.00ovno 01704579486

DINING SET Solid Teak extending table with 4 dark brown leather chairs. Excellent condition. £200 o.n.o. 0151 9321725

SAMSUNG TELEVISION 42 inch flat screen HD television with built in free view. Good condition £75 07760150031

LLADRO FIGURINES Various Lladro figures in various sizes and prices, including one beautiful large figure. 01704 573121

ROLLER BLIND John Lewis, 122cm x 177cm, can be cut to size, cream background with red floral print £10 01704 876855

FIRESIDE CHAIR beige, floral seat. Height 48cm Width 75cm Overall height 109cm, good condition £30 01695 731819

FREE! due to house move: Brown leather 3-piece suite, good clean condition 01704 226791

GUEST BED Full size single bed with full size single underneath, opens into a kingsize bed on 2 legs, £100 07946 754120

MOUNTAIN BIKE Gents, vgc £55. Bike carrier £30. Complete paint spraying system, used once £25 07592 567813

ARGOS TABLE-TOP fridge, brand new £90, receipt bought end of August, will accept £70, buyer collects 0151 7928531

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VINTAGE 60'S Teak sideboard on legs, 3 central drawers, 2 cupboards 59" wide, 17" deep, 29" high £40 0151 5263252

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MISC

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UPRIGHT PIANO Good Condition. From Crosby Church. £160 with stool. Buyer Collects. 07974 701524

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PET CARRIER suitable for medium sized dog, sturdy, clean, unused £20 07967 057322

FISH TANK Including pump and net,as new,hardly used.16"longx8"wide x10"deep. £15. 01704224039

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SPORTS EQUIPMENT

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TAYLOR MADE burner 6 iron New bargain £10 01515319425/07773242918

DUNLOPE 65XI left handed driver lovely club big head bargain £10 01515319425/07773242918

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

PING G2 right handed driver bargain £35 01515319425/07773242918

RIDING BOOTS Rubber, size 6.5, good condition £10 01704 560518

RIDING BOOTS Rubber size 4, good condition £10 01704 560518

GOLF PUTTER Wilson deep red putter has polymer insert excellent £10 07467098657

TRAMPETTE 3ft as new exercise trampette. Be trim for Christmas! £30.00 ono 01704 563724

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NIKE WATERPROOF Golf suit. Black; large. Little use; very good condition. New £100 sell £50. 07773 698733

BADMINTON RACQUET Prince, warrior 100% Graphite plus case, very good condition £10 01704 560518

CALLAWAY DRIVER Callaway tour driver 9,5 degree aldila habanero shaft excellent cond £40 07467098657

HOME GYM pro power multi work station, includes assembly manual and user instructions, all tools required for assembly, great condition £30 01704 201872

GENTS CALLAWAY Driver Hyper X 10DEG, Loft stiff graphite shaft, hardly used £35 Tailor-made steel head driver, hardly used £20 07904892564

GOLF UMBRELLA Raa Putters logo red/black golf umbrella.Push button opening,soft handle,vented.Comes with outer cover,brand new, make excellent Christmas present,RRP29.99-BARGAIN £10 07887597050

TOYS AND GAMES

PLUM TRAMPOLINE Pink, 4.5ft Great Condition, used only indoors £30 07475424174

ELC KEYBOARD Pink with microphone and stool, Great Condition £25 07475424174

SPIDER-MAN LUNCH BOX unwanted gift unused £4 07708836403

RED AUDI Mini Quatro sit on car. Suit 1-3 years. Good condition £25 07881 924492

WANTED Transformer toys for 8 year old 07539750575 07539750575

LOL SURPRISE Limited edition and sold out toy. LOL Big Surprise. Brand new and excellent condition. £75 07725832259

LITTLE COOKS Kitchen from Early Learning Centre. 3 years + good condition £30 07881 924492

DOLLS HIGHCHAIR Buggy & bouncer set from early learning centre. 3 years + good condition £20 07881 924492

HAPPY STREET multi coloured plastic road way pieces and cars, accessories. Many pieces £15 07925599600

BUILD-A-BEAR OUTFITS Many outfits with some hangers plus accessories for girl bears. Bargain £30 07925599600

CHILD'S SCOOTER Pink wheels and detail. Suitable for child of around 5/6 years old. £6 01704 551398

REMOTE CONTROL DALEK 12 inch high remote control Dalek. Talks and lights up. Boxed and in perfect working order. £55.00 01704 546978

ELECTRIC JEEP Child's Electric Ride on Police Jeep, Two Seats, Age 3-7 Years, Very Little Use, Good Condition £50 01704 576856

FISHER PRICE Push & Go train. Tomy pull along toy with Winnie the Pooh toys also pull along musical caterpillar £3 each 0151 5263252

FLIKER LIFT Scooters x 2 black / red, excellent condition £25 each or £40 pair. Contact after 6pm. No withheld numbers please 07984 108072

DOLL'S PUSHCHAIR Three wheeled stroller/pushchair. Good condition. No stains/rips or pen marks. Underneath storage and hood. From a smoke and pet free home. £6 01704 551398

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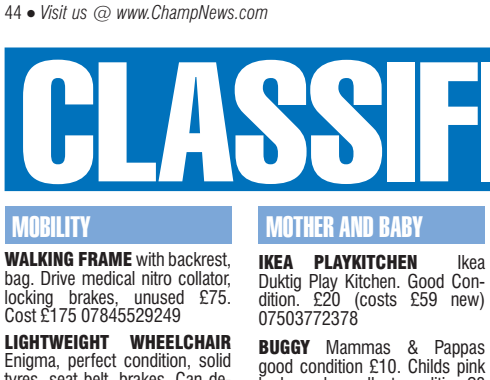

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Announcements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PLANT BETTY

Julie and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives and friends for their kindness, messages of support and generous donations for the Alzheimer's Society. Special thanks to Benridge Care Home, to the Reverend Sonya Marshall for her kind words and support and to Howard's Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements.

GRIMSHAW COLIN EDWARD

The family of the late Colin Edward Grimshaw wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy during their recent bereavement. Also for the cards, letters of condolence and for the overwhelming generosity of donations received for The British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK. Thanks to Rev. Paul Robinson for a comforting service and to Georgina and the staff at Brookfield's Funeralcare in Southport for the funeral arrangements.

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Christenings · Births
Deaths · In Memoriums
Congratulations · Prayers

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SHEPPARD DEREK

The family of Derek would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy and support, cards and generous donations at this sad time. Special thanks to Dr Hindle and the district nurses for their care and kindness. Thank you to the Rufford Arms for their great hospitality on the day of the funeral. Thank you to the Rev. Stephen Foster for his kind ministrations and to Neal Buckley for dignified funeral arrangements. Derek was a wonderful husband and dad and loved by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

COATES NORMAN ROBIN

Passed away peacefully on 27th September 2017

Norman was much loved and will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Special thanks to Claire and Dave at Newland and Wilkinson Funeral Directors in Tarleton, Lancashire.

01772 811165

ROBERTSON ANN

Gary, Stephen and Gillian would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbours (old and new as well an near and far) for all the love and support received at this very sad time and for making generous donations in Ann's memory to Queenscourt Hospice. Special thanks to all the hospital and community based NHS professionals involved in Ann's care over the last four and a half years. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers at Queenscourt Hospice for looking after Ann and the family during Ann's final days. Thanks also to Lisa Hunter and team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their professional and dignified funeral arrangements.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

KENYON B.E.M. CLIFFORD (CLIFF)

Birthday memories
12th November
Died
18th November 2015

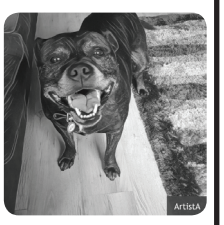
We hold you close within our hearts
And there you will remain
To walk with us throughout our life
Until we meet again.

Loved always and forever
From Wife Myra xx
and Son Christopher and Kate xx
and family xx

IN MEMORIAM

HASSELL ALFIE

Gone but never forgotten
3 November



Alfie a gentle soul always loved and will never be forgotten. Love you loads xxx xxx

PRAYERS

DEAR SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In the past I have asked for many favours.
This time I ask for one special favour.
(mention it)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes, it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen.

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted.
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D.S.

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DEATHS

RYDER (HINTON) SYLVIA CHRISTINE

30th October 2017
Aged 67 Years

Much loved Mother to Sandra and Peter. Sylvia now goes to join Husband Walter once more.
We miss you more than words can say.
Service and cremation at West Lancs Crematorium L40 7SP at 2.30pm 8th November 2017
Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services 01695 731199

RIGBY JOYCE

30th October 2017
Aged 91 years

Died peacefully at Birkdale Park Nursing Home. Loving Wife of the late Frederick. Much loved Mum of Pauline, cherished Nan and Great-Grandma to all of her grandchildren. Joyce will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Graveside service at Duke Street Cemetery on Wednesday 8th November at 1:00pm. Flowers welcome. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DODDS MARJORIE

Died 28th October 2017
At Springfield Court
Aughton
Aged 95

Dear Marjorie will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral at West Lancashire Cremtorium L40 7SP on Monday November 13th at 12:15pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK. Enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk, 128B Burscough St, Ormskirk L39 2E7 Tel: 01695 572997

DEATHS

CARDWELL RICHARD (RICKY)

Passed away peacefully at home on Sunday 29th October 2017
Aged 78 years of Burscough formally of St. Helens

Dearly loved Husband of Alison, much loved Dad of Mark and Lisa. Loved and missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 10th November 2017 at 1:45pm. Family Flowers only and Donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries to Lisa Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough, L40 5TP. 01704 891555.

HARRISON-DEES JAMES

on 26th October 2017
Aged 46 years

James will be sadly missed by his loving family and friends. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for The Samaritans or MIND. Further enquiries please to M Ruston Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118

JACKSON IAN BOWMAN

24th October 2017
Aged 67 years

Peacefully at home. Loving Father of Alex, dear Brother of Susan. Ian will be greatly missed by Judy, David, Sally and Jane, family and friends.

Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Wed 15th November at 1.45pm.

Family flowers only please but donations to Marie Curie will be gratefully received. Enquiries and donations to FJ Gibb Funeral Directors, 6A Clarence Road, Southport, PR8 4BH. Tel: 01704 551666

DEATHS

HURST ALICE

Peacefully on the 29th October 2017, aged 89 years

Loving Wife of the late Tommy, much loved Mum to Stephen and Chris, dear Mother-in-law to Sue and Louise and loving Nan to Dan, Tom and Great Grandson Lucas. Alice will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. A funeral service will take place on Tuesday 14th November 2017 at Upholland Methodist Church at 11am followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium at 12.15pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Cancer Research UK and Alzheimers Society. All enquiries to W Banks of Orrell, Sefton Villa, Sefton Road, Orrell, WN5 8UP. Tel 01695 622272.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
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DEATHS

GOSSAGE JOAN

1st November 2017
Peacefully at
Aintree Hospital
Aged 90 years

Beloved Wife and Sweetheart of Bill for 75 years. Mother to Sheila, Joan, Ken and Philip, together with their partners Phil, Billy, Janis and Shirley. Loving Nan of Lisa, John, Susan, Kirsty, Philip, Shirley and Gary. Joan was a very proud Grandmother and Great Grandmother to all her Grandchildren. You were 'Simply the Best' Funeral Service at Thornton Crematorium 10.40am on 9th November 2017 and afterwards at the Holy Rosary Club, Altway, Aintree. All enquiries to Co-op Funeral Service, Walton Vale Tel: 0151 525 1101

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2017/1035/FUL Demolition of existing rear extension. Construction of single storey rear extension and canopy over front entrance door at 46 Roby Mill, Up Holland, Skelmersdale.

Application No: 2017/1086/FUL Single storey extension to rear and replacement porch to front (amendment to planning permission 2016/1035/FUL) at 24 Wheat Lane, Lathom.

Application No: 2017/1097/FUL Variation of Condition 2 on planning permission 2016/0143/FUL to vary the approved plans and to read as follows: The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with details shown on the following plans:-Plan reference G01 rev B (proposed Ground floor plan), G04 rev B (proposed elevations), G05 rev B (Proposed Roof Plan), G08 rev A (Proposed First Floor Plan), L03 rev B (proposed site plan) at 53 Granville Park, Aughton.

Application No: 2017/1100/FUL Conversion and use of barn ancillary to farm house including alterations and extension at Stand Farm, Spa Lane, Lathom.

Application No: 2017/1115/COU Change of Use from Use Class A1 (Retail) to Use Class A3 (Cafe/Restaurant) and the installation of an extraction system at 22 - 24 Moor Street, Ormskirk.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI — Dated: 8th November 2017
Director of Development and Regeneration — PDNOT972

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Friday 3rd November 2017

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327524	92189
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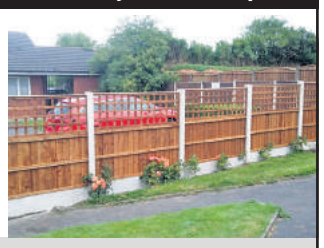

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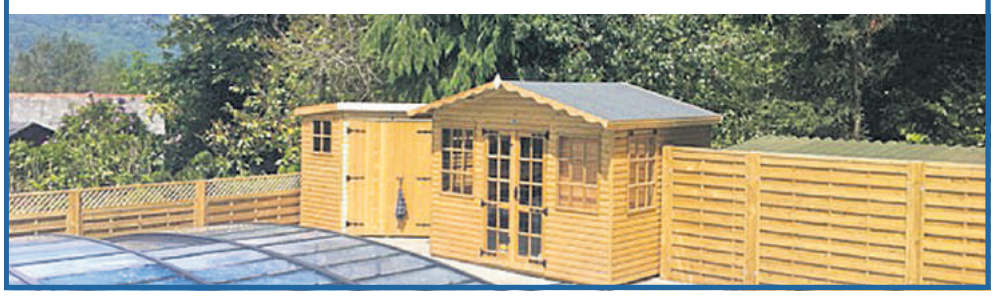

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WHAT were you doing back in 1998? Chances are if you weren't listening to Aqua CDs or scrawling on the France '98 wall chart you got free with *The Champion* then you'd have been busy fiddling with your Nokia 3210. For such a recent bit of our illustrious history it's beginning to feel like a very long time ago.

So you'd expect a car from that era to feel positively Paleolithic by today's exacting standards of Bluetooth, infotainment consoles and adaptive cruise control, but the S-registered Toyota Avensis I've been running around in for the last few months doesn't. Unlike the flyweight two-seaters I normally run around in this four-door slab of Japanese (albeit Derbyshire-built) anonymity does absolutely nothing to raise the pulse, but on a cold, rainy day there's a lot to be said for a quiet, repmobile that just starts up and does everything discreetly and free of drama. Not bad for something that you can pick up these days for well under a grand.

It is so quietly accomplished that I've let it crack on with all the dull jobs without barely warranting a mention here before – but when I ended up being chucked the keys to its 2017 equivalent last weekend I couldn't help comparing the two. The winner in this case is definitely the Avensis – but I just wasn't sure which one.

To join the class of 2017 – in this case the mid-range Business Edition, equipped with Toyota's torque-rich 1.6-litre turbodiesel – you need £22,855, and in return you get plenty of gadgets and safety features that my Mk1 model can only dream of. It's still very much an Avensis in that does everything in a quiet and not terribly exciting way, but the clearest indication of two decades' worth of progress is just how much quieter it is. The older car's not exactly raucous by any means, but the latest Avensis makes you feel like you've pressed the 'mute' button on entire motorways. As long as you don't put your foot down, it is eerily silent.

It's also smoother, sharper through the bends and far roomier on the inside.

The latest Avensis comes out on top in just about every aspect but you'd be surprised at how well the 1990s original copes with the competition – not bad for a car that costs just a grand, remember. It's the same with all the big family cars from the turn of the century. Find a good one that's been looked after and it'll be just as good a companion as a brand new one.

Certainly it's a better slice of 1998 nostalgia than digging out that dusty Nokia out from its cupboard. And we'll give the Aqua CDs a miss…

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Customer Deposit	£299	Interest Charges	£1,178.55
Deposit Allowance	£1,800	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£10,466	Total Amount Payable	£15,041.55
45 Monthly Payments	£169.65	**APR Representative**	5.3%

Brand New Vauxhall Corsa
Limited edition 1.4 75ps 3dr

£1800 Finance Deposit Allowance

ONLY 6 AVAILABLE

For just **£179** per month

£179 customer deposit

Includes **£1000** We buy any car discount

Cash Price	£13,913.78	Optional Final Payment	£3,696
Customer Deposit	£179	Interest Charges	£1,220.28
Deposit Allowance	£1,800	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£10,934.78	Total Amount Payable	£15,432.06
45 Monthly Payments	£179.98	**APR Representative**	5.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Adam
1.2i Energised

£1600 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just **£189** per month

£299 customer deposit

Includes **£1000** We buy any car discount

Cash Price	£14,565	Optional Final Payment	£4,072
Customer Deposit	£299	Interest Charges	£1,312.03
Deposit Allowance	£1,600	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£11,666	Total Amount Payable	£15,877.03
47 Monthly Payments	£189.49	**APR Representative**	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Crossland X
1.2 82ps SE 5dr

£1000 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just **£199** per month

£399 customer deposit

Includes **£1000** We buy any car discount

Cash Price	£16,060.26
Customer Deposit	£399
Deposit Allowance	£1,000
Amount of Credit	£13,661.26
47 Monthly Payments	£199.99
Optional Final Payment	£5,888
Interest Charges	£1,626.27
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£17,686.53
APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Astra
1.4i 16V SE 5dr

£3000 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just **£239** per month

£199 customer deposit

Includes **£1000** We buy any car discount

Cash Price	£18,936.82
Customer Deposit	£199
Deposit Allowance	£3,000
Amount of Credit	£14,737.82
47 Monthly Payments	£239
Optional Final Payment	£5,164
Interest Charges	£1,659.18
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£20,596
APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Mokka X
1.4 Active

£2400 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just **£249** per month

£399 customer deposit

Includes **£1000** We buy any car discount

Cash Price	£20,212.26
Customer Deposit	£399
Deposit Allowance	£2,400
Amount of Credit	£16,413.26
45 Monthly Payments	£249.98
Optional Final Payment	£6,578
Interest Charges	£1,913.80
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£22,126.06
APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Insignia Grand Sport 1.5 Design Nav

For just **£249** per month

£499 customer deposit

Includes **£1000** We buy any car discount

Cash Price	£18,396.53
Customer Deposit	£499
Amount of Credit	£16,897.53
47 Monthly Payments	£249
Optional Final Payment	£7,199
Interest Charges	£2,004.47
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£20,401
APR Representative	4.2%

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4 years finance available on selected cars. Scrappage available on selected cars. Up to £2400 finance deposit allowance available on Mokka only, allowances will differ on other models. £3500 registration allowance available on Cascada only, allowance will differ on other models and is not available in conjunction with any other offers. Best price guaranteed must be a written quotation and within a 30-mile radius of 06 Vauxhall Ormskirk. We buy any car offer only on part-exchange for new passenger car orders from 1st September, which are subsequently registered by 30th September. On top of other offers excluding Scrappage, Partners and Associates discounts and B2B. The vehicle must be subject to an appraisal of its true condition at a Vauxhall participating Retailer. The offer will be £1,000 more than WeBuyAnyCar.Com's valuation based on the true appraisal. Participating Retailers only. Terms and Conditions apply. See Vauxhall.co.uk/webuyanycartoo. Correct at time of going to press.

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• Rear Priv
• Alloys

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• Alloys

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• Alloys
• CD Player

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59 Nissan Qashqai Dci Accenta

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• Alloys
• Air Con

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• 63000 Miles
• FSH

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61 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5 Dr

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63 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 Cdti Tech Line Estate

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60 Bmw 118 Diesel M Sport 5 Dr

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• Air Con
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• Air Con
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• Privacy Glass
• 1/2 Leather

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• FSH

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• Sat Nav
• Leather

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65 Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Exclusive

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• Alloys
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63 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Cdti Sri Estate

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• FSH
• Alloys

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61 Bmw 116 Diesel 5 Dr

• CD Player
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63 Volvo V40 1.6 Diesel 5 Dr

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• FSH
• Alloys

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63 Mini Countryman 1.6 5 Dr

• 1 Owner
• 36000 Miles
• Black Alloys

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No Deposit £47 a Week

60 Bmw X1 2.0 D X Drive Se

• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

Only £9,495

No Deposit £47 a Week

63 BMW 116D SE 5 DR

• 1 Owner
• 68000 Miles
• FSH

Only £9,995

NO Deposit £49 a Week

62 Vauxhall Antara 2.2 Cdti Se 4X4

• 4000 Miles
• Leather
• Sat Nav

Only £9,995

No Deposit £49 a Week

15 Renault Capture 1.5 Dci Dynamique S

• 1 Owner
• 17" Alloys
• Air Con

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65 Ford Focus New Model

• Petrol or Diesel
• 1 Owner
• 37000 Miles

New In

No Deposit From £9,995

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• 1 Owner
• Alloys
• Sat Nav

New In

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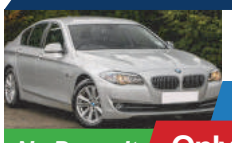
11 Bmw 520 De SE 4 Dr



• Leather
• FSH
• Priv Glass

New In

No Deposit Only £10,995

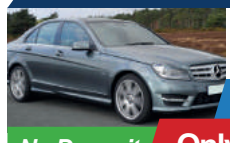
63 Audi A3 Tdi Sport 5 Dr

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• 56000 Miles

New In

No Deposit Only £11,995

13 Mercedes C200 Cdi SE Exec Auto 4 Dr

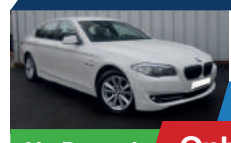


• 1 Owner
• Leather
• FSH

New In

No Deposit Only £11,995

62 Bmw 520 D Se 4 Dr



• 1 Owner
• 55000 Miles
• Leather

New In

No Deposit Only £11,995

16 Ford Focus 1.5 Tdci Zetec S 5 Dr

• 1 Owner
• Full Sports Body Kit

New In

No Deposit Only £11,995

63 Mercedes C200 CDi Sport Estate

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Alloys

Was £12,495

No Deposit Only £11,995

65 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Cdti Tourer Sri

• VX Line
• 1 Owner
• 37000 Miles

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66 Ford Focus 1.0 T Zetec Nav 5 Dr

• Sat Nav
• App Pack
• 18000 Miles

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14 Mercedes B180 cdl Sport

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• Alloys
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15 Mini Countryman Diesel Cooper

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• Alloys

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14 Volvo XC60 2.0 D Se Lux

• 1 Owner
• Leather
• Rear Priv

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13 Jaguar Xf 2.2 D Lux Auto

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• 48000 Miles
• FSH

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• FSH
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• FSH
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Skem move ten points away from relegation zone with hard-earned win

Skelmersdale United 2
Mossley 1

SKELMERSDALE United moved ten points clear of the relegation zone after a hard-fought win over Mossley, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

They took revenge over Mossley for their defeat in the FA Trophy but more significantly they moved another place up the Evo-Stik Division One North table.

In the six league games since Dave Powell took over the managerial reins at Skem, his team have won three, drawn two and only lost one.

The 11 points yield has lifted the gloom that could easily have descended because of their off field problems.

Skelmersdale made a good start to the game at the Marine Travel Stadium, going 2-0 up inside 31 minutes and although they conceded a goal early in the second-half they held on well to gather three deserved points. After surviving a scare in the opening seconds when Mossley striker Michael Fish put a shot from an acute angle into the side-netting Skelm had most of the possession in the first-half.

The Mossley keeper fumbles the ball for Skem's first goal. Picture by John Driscoll

Neither team had an opportunity until 18 minutes when Andy Owens won a free-kick around 30 yards from goal. Taking the kick himself Owens' effort although on target lacked power, but Mossley goalkeeper Ollie Martin inexplicably let the ball drop into the net to give Skelmersdale a 1-0 lead. If the hapless keeper was to have any excuse the sun was directly behind Owens, but he should have saved comfortably.

The second Skelmersdale goal came on 31 minutes when Callum Mahoney struck a firm shot towards the right-side of the goal, however in his efforts to block it Mossley defender Tom Dean deflected the ball into the left-side of the goal.

Before the interval Skelmersdale had a couple more openings on goal, Bevan Burey and Mahoney bringing good saves out of Martin.

Mossley came out strongly after the restart. In the 50th minute another ball from a wide position was headed in by Caldon Henson to reduce Skem's lead to one goal.

In the last ten minutes Mossley got more urgent but Skem managed to hang on.

Skelmersdale now have no game until Saturday, November 18.

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Burscough face huge game against fellow strugglers

BURSCOUGH face a battle at the bottom this Saturday when they face struggling Maine Road.

The game against the Manchester based team represents another good opportunity for Burscough and is the only game in West Lancashire.

That's because local rivals Skelmersdale United are without a game until Saturday, November 18, when they are scheduled to be at home to Ossett Town. This is followed by a re-arranged game at Atherton Collieries on Monday, November 20.

The Linnets may be in the relegation zone in the North-West Counties Premier Division, but so are Maine Road and on recent form the odds must be in Burscough's favour.

Although Maine Road are two places above Burscough in the league table they have lost every game they have played over the last calendar month.

The Maine Road match is a 3pm kick-off at Victoria Park.

Next week Burscough make the short trip to play away to Charnock Richard on Tuesday, November 14.

Linnets come away empty handed after failing to recover from early setback

Hanley Town 2
Burscough 0

A THREADBARE Burscough squad never recovered from conceding after less than two minutes to come away empty handed.

It was a tough task, as Hanley started the day in third place in the North-West Counties Premier Division and had enjoyed an 11 game unbeaten run until they tasted defeat last weekend.

The Linnets had the worst possible start when a long clearance was misjudged by their backline and home forward Dan Cope was left clear and he duly placed the ball into the net from just inside the penalty area.

The goal pretty much stunned Burscough but to their credit they didn't just hold out they gradually fought their way back into the game and by the 15th minute Jason Dunroe put a well struck shot from distance just wide of the target.

Ten minutes later Peter Henerty saw his shot deflected for a corner.

During this period Burscough were doing well and but for a Mick Conlon shot over the crossbar they were fairly comfortable and dangerous on the counterattack.

Just after the half-hour Terry Cummings made a run down the left and centred the ball to Adam Gilchrist.

He was in a great position but a superbly timed tackle by Hanley's Martin Stanyer frustrated the Linnets forward.

Burscough finished the half definitely in the ascendancy, home goalkeeper Dane Jackson saved a shot from Gilchrist, then he saved at the Gilchrist's feet, before with half-time beckoning Rex Kimona-Puissance headed wide from a corner.

Hanley started the second-half like words had been had in their dressing room and soon Andy Nicholls put a shot wide of the Linnets goal after he had been given the opportunity by Jon Sheldon.

On the hour Gilchrist broke down the right and crossed to the far post, however, agonisingly Peter Henerty just couldn't get enough purchase on the ball to score.

Then it always happens when you are struggling, instead of being level 1-1, Burscough found themselves 2-0 down.

Sheldon's right-wing corner was lifted to the far-post Cope lost his marker and smacked a powerful header low into the net.

It was almost three, Cope wasting his hat-trick chance by putting the ball over the crossbar after a knockdown.

The game became fairly stretched both teams going for goals.

Burscough's Josh Samberg saved from Neville Thompson, then Conlon ended a good run by firing over the top.

Down the other end Dunroe was denied by a block from a defender as a goal looked odds on.

Burscough can be proud of their efforts, given some luck and better finishing they might even have had something tangible to show for their hard work.

Next Saturday the Linnets are at home to Maine Road.

The Manchester club are going through a bad time at the moment and Burscough manager Dave Sutton will have of number of players back too, on recent evidence they should be very hopeful of picking up three points.

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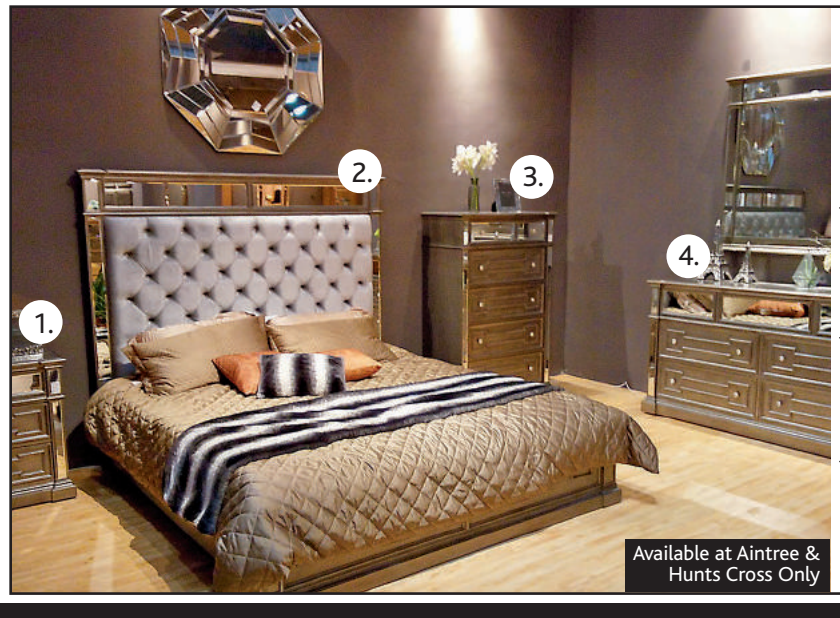

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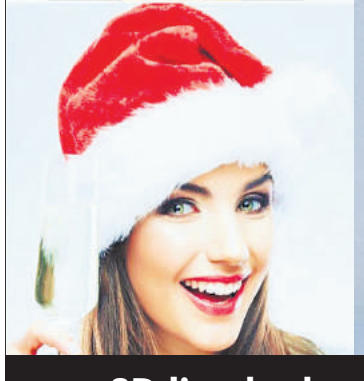

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The Art of Gift Buying

Most of us spend weeks pondering how to get everyone on our Christmas gift list just the right gift. It seems the better we know a person, the harder it is to choose the perfect gift. We ponder so much and for so long that we leave the actual buying until it's so late, we are obliged to fall back on those tried-and-tested standbys. These gifts, whilst they will probably be gratefully accepted, will nevertheless lack that extra element of surprise so clearly mirrored on the face of the recipient. Somehow it seems to signal a lack of thought.

Thought of course, is the key to successful gift buying. There is that famous saying, "It's the thought that counts" and it's so very true. Unless we put careful thought into choosing gifts, they will go on, counting for nothing very much, as the years go by. What then is the answer?

Constructive thought is what is required and for this you need to be as methodical as possible. Make a list of all those you intend to buy for and then list some salient facts about each person. Finally decide how much you intend to spend on each gift. This list should be your 'bible' during the shopping trips you make. Never let it out of your possession. Refer to it every time you look in a shop window, wander round a store or enter a shop. Be prepared to see and buy in unexpected places. Even your local petrol station can often come up with the perfect gift. One thing you must not do is give totally unsuitable gifts. If you are buying for a child, make sure the gift is suitable for the age group of that child. If you're buying for someone on a diet, giving them chocolates is cruel. If a member of your family has a blood pressure problem, don't buy them booze. This may all seem fairly obvious but you would be surprised how often people fall into the trap of unsuitable gift buying, especially when panicking at the last minute.

The most acceptable gifts are those that fulfil an unusual function in the recipient's life, or which can be looked at with pleasure day after day in the ensuing year.

Try to do the unexpected in your giving. If you give a book, try to get a first edition signed by the author. If you give something to ornament the house, try to make it an original work of art. If your target doesn't have a hobby, give them a starter kit for one.

If they are getting on in years, give them something to promote their comfort or make life easier day to day.

This year the shops are fuller than ever before with wonderful things to give. There really is no excuse for not exercising intelligent gift giving this year.

Such gifts will still be remembered throughout next year.

Christmas Gifts for Men
Zip Jackets & Topcoats by Jupiter & Douglas
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Buy now & beat the crush

"Shop Early for Christmas," is probably one of the most annoying phrases in the English language. What is even more annoying is coming face to face with one of those people who have actually done so. There you are, back bent beneath the weight of numerous shopping bags, feet screaming for help, head bursting, purse woefully empty, shopping list still three-parts full, and you come face to face with one of these self-satisfied, irritating folk!

"I did it all last January in the Sales!" they gloat. You resist the urge to hammer them into the ground with the proverbial blunt instrument, smile sweetly and stagger on. Christmas goodwill has never been so far from your mind.

Looked at in the cold light of a December morning, shopping one year, for the festivities of the next, does seem a touch clinical. Somehow the magic of it all gets lost in the business of saving money, being ruthlessly organised and avoiding the hustle and bustle. But there is an element of good sense in it. Whilst it is probably a bit extreme to shop one clear year ahead, there has to be some middle way.

Now, for example, is not too late to start shopping early. The Christmas stock is coming into the shops fast, so whilst there is still a wide and varied choice, is just the right time to start. You could even save money this way because you will have all the choice and you won't have to pay through the nose for expensive substitutes later on.

Shopping early before the true rush starts will also save you wear and tear on your nerves, prevent the body battering of vast crowds, and spread the load more evenly over the coming weeks.

Just think, if you get the buying over now, you'll have the rest of the run-up to Christmas to bake those home-made goodies that you normally never have time to do. You'll have time to wrap the gifts artistically for a change. You'll have the energy to decorate the house as it's never been decorated before.

So be sensible this year. Be merciful to yourself. Buying now means, not just beating the crush, it means buying that extra time in which to really enjoy the coming of Christmas.

Illustration by Gill Smith

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A Festival of Tales

brings together artists, writers and performers to create artworks that celebrate Ormskirk, its history and people.

Ormskirk, one of Lancashire's lively market towns, is the place to visit this festive season as six highly regarded artists, three published authors and one talented theatre company come together for A Festival of Tales, on until January 2018.

All the work has been inspired by local heritage, with pieces created during workshops with Ormskirk schools and community groups. The artworks are on display in locations around the town centre so visitors will find Ormskirk invaded by fairy inventors, a giant gingerbread man and even Orme the Viking!

There are competitions, free writing workshops and creative activities for all ages. You can also vote for your favourite festive window display in the town. To find out all about the project visit: **www.chapelgallery.org.uk** or follow **@talesfest** on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

A Festival of Tales is the result of a successful lottery application and collaboration between West Lancashire Borough Council, Ormskirk Town Centre Management Group, Edge Hill University, local businesses, schools and community groups. The project is organised by WLBC's Arts Development Service.

Visual Artists: Su Blackwell, Samantha Bryan, Matthew Roby, Gill Smith, Angie Thompson and Melanie Tomlinson.
Writers: Claire Dean, Dr. Rodge Glass & James Rice.
Performing Artists: Wives' Tales Theatre Company.

Humour, imagination and seriously good art are the key ingredients, so if you enjoy being creative, want to delve a bit deeper into local history or just be entertained, then Ormskirk is the place be!

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How many items can be found in a Booths Luxury Hamper?

Send your entries on a postcard to: **Booth Luxury Hamper Competition, Champion Newspapers, Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA**

Don't forget to include your name and contact details!

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 2pm Friday 17 November

Normal Champion rules apply. See T&Cs at www.champnews.com/comprules. No alternative prize option(s) available. The Editor's decision is final.

Christmas fayre this year

Gathering your Christmas menu together should take up as much of your time as considering which gifts to buy for whom. So many us simply throw a turkey in the oven, boil the vegetables and then serve up the Christmas pud almost as an after-thought. Christmas deserves a special meal, and special things should go into it. It should be as much fun to compose the menu as anything else you do for Christmas, so on with those thinking caps and start planning.

First of all decide which meats you intend to serve. If it's to be turkey then there's no more to be said. There are other possibilities however and all just as delicious. Goose for example has returned to fashion. A large joint of beef is always welcome, as is a leg of pork complete with crispy crackling. Venison is another possibility, as are game, a huge roast ham or even a fragrantly beautiful, tender roast leg of lamb which is the general choice in New Zealand.

Still, to provide you with some inspiration and give you some ideas, here is a menu you might like to try as it's festive, unusual and delicious.

You'll need a starter. Something light but attractive to the eye and not too complicated to put together

SCRAMBLED EGG WITH SMOKED SALMON (Imperial weights used)

INGREDIENTS:
9oz unsalted butter
8 slices of stale white bread cut thick
1 pepper, red or green
7 eggs
3 tablespoons double cream
Black pepper
¼ level teaspoon salt
¼lb shredded smoked salmon

For the garnish:
Red or green pepper
6 sprigs parsley
12 stoned black olives
Watercress

METHOD:
Melt 5oz butter in pan. Take a 3 inch round pastry cutter, plain or fluted. Cut six rounds from the bread and soak them in the melted butter. Place in an oven preheated to 400 (gas mark 6) and bake for 20 minutes or until crisp and golden. Remove and keep warm on a serving dish.
Remove the seeds from one pepper and chop coarsely. Melt another ounce of butter and cook the chopped pepper >>

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in it very slowly for 15 minutes. Drain on absorbent paper and keep warm.
Beat the eggs lightly and stir in the cream, black pepper, salt and salmon. Melt 3oz butter in a large heavy pan and pour in the egg mixture. Stir gently all the time until creamy curds begin to form. Remove the pan from the heat immediately and arrange the soft scramble over the rounds of bread.
Scatter the cooked peppers over the tops of the egg rounds and garnish each with a sprig of parsley.
Decorate the serving dish with thin slices of the other pepper, small sprigs of watercress and black olives. Serve with fried bread fingers.

MELON ZEST

Follow the starter with a thin wedge of melon dusted lightly with sugar and ground ginger mixed carefully together.

ROAST GOOSE

INGREDIENTS:
1 goose - remember a 12lb bird is said to feed about six moderately hungry people, or four with hearty appetites.
Onion stuffing
¾ pint of beef stock
Apple sauce
Oil or fat for basting

STUFFING INGREDIENTS:
Packet of sage and onion stuffing - amount according to size of bird
2 large onions
½lb chestnuts
1lb pork sausage meat

METHOD:
Make the stuffing by chopping the onions coarsely. Mix the packet stuffing according to instructions so the final bulk matches that of the sausage meat. Mix the onions into the stuffing mix, then mix it all together with the sausage meat. Boil the chestnuts, peel and mash finely, then mix into the stuffing mix, with salt and pepper to taste. Don't worry if the mixture appears dry, the goose fat will soon sort that out.
Prepare and truss the goose. If you cannot cope with this ask your butcher to do it. Stuff the bird at both ends tightly. Heat fat or oil till smoking hot and place the bird in the dish, baste carefully all over. Roast between 2 and 3 hours according to size and age of bird, in a hot oven. Baste frequently and when the bird is three-quarters done, dredge with flour, return to oven and cease basting.
Serve on a hot dish with roast and boiled potatoes and selected vegetables of your choice. Serve gravy or sauce and blackberry jelly as side dishes.

Naturally Christmas pudding should follow that. Try this traditional old recipe that was first published around 1850.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

INGREDIENTS:
4 large eggs
1 pint fresh full cream milk
1 teaspoon salt
½lb fresh grated beef suet (vegetarian suet is available)
¾lb stoned raisins
¾lb currants
¼lb brown sugar
¼lb blanched almonds
1 whole nutmeg
2oz candied peel cut very fine
Brown bread crumbs
1 wine glass brandy
1 wine glass white wine

METHOD:
Beat the eggs and add ½ pint of the milk and salt. Beat all together well. Add the suet, fruit, sugar, nutmeg, peel and almonds. Mix together thoroughly and then add the other ½ pint of milk. Beat in sufficient breadcrumbs to make the mixture a stiff paste, then stir in the wine and brandy.

Place the mixture in a bowl and allow to stand for five hours. Place in a basin (or two), tie securely and boil for four hours
If you want to boil the pudding in a cloth to get the traditional spherical shape, use only ½lb each of the fruit and 1oz of peel in the original mixture, or it will fall apart when the cloth is removed.

To go with the pudding try this sauce from the same period.

BOILED PUDDING SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:
Fresh butter
Preserving sugar
1 wine glass of white wine
1 wine glass brandy
1 wine glass of your favourite liqueur

METHOD:
Mix all together in a bowl and pour into a pan. Bring to the boil and pour half over the pudding on the serving dish and take the rest to the table in a sauceboat.

Alternatively from the same period:-

UNBOILED CHRISTMAS SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:
3 tablespoons double cream
Yolks of 2 eggs
1 tablespoon sugar
3 tablespoons white wine
3 tablespoons brandy or rum according to taste

METHOD:
Warm the cream in a double saucepan or a bowl standing in boiling water. Add the egg yolks, sugar, wine and spirit. Stir well but DO NOT ALLOW TO BOIL. Season with fresh ground nutmeg and serve from a heated sauceboat, as hot as possible.

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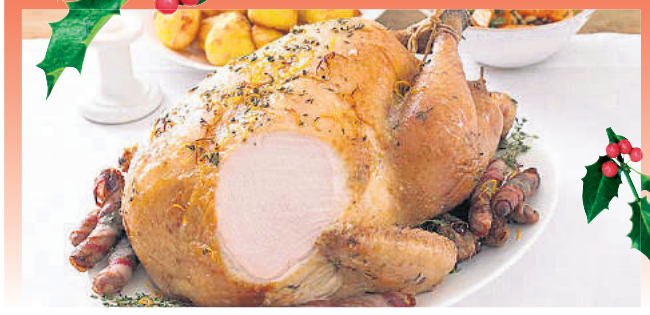

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There's something very special about a perfectly prepared meal, served with panache in beautiful and comfortable surroundings. It can help celebrate in a very unique way, any special time of year. Christmas is of course the most special time of the whole calendar, and eating out over the festive season is a perfect way to enjoy this time of year with all your family and friends.

Caterers, no matter how excellent at other times of the year, still pull out all the stops at Christmas. Festive menus are devised. Special meals are created. Establishments are decorated in the traditional, seasonal way. Party bookings are particularly welcome, and special entertainment acts are put on to help the party mood go with a swing.

There are several gastronomic ways of marking the coming of this very gastronomic season.

You can have a traditional Christmas lunch. Most restaurants put these on daily for several weeks before Christmas actually arrives. The menu usually comprises Christmas fare with all the trimmings, with thoughtful additions for those who might just prefer something else. This provides an ideal opportunity to entertain business colleagues, clients, customers, friends or relatives with an intimate, festive repast.

Then there are the evenings. Party bookings enable groups of colleagues, families, associations, club members, or just good friends to gather together and enjoy a memorable evening out. Special menus, seasonal trimmings, discos, bands and groups, are laid on by caterers to please their guests and keep them happy the whole evening through.

Going out on Christmas Day is becoming ever more popular with each passing year. Although it can be expensive, it offers several very real advantages. It relieves at least one member of the family of all the work both in terms of cooking and also the clearing up afterwards. It allows the lonely the opportunity of enjoying this festive meal in company and because it is prepared by professionals, it is always a meal worthy of the occasion and a joy to eat in itself.

Christmas Day menus are well worth the booking. Normally several courses of mouth-watering traditional foods are offered, with one or two luxury alternatives for those with special dietary needs or simply a requirement to have something a little different for once.

This year, try a festive meal or two at your favourite restaurant, at sometime during the hectic weeks leading up to the day. Gather a group of friends or colleagues together and book a party meal and entertainment and if you really want to give Mum the very best present of all, book a Christmas Day meal for all the family. That way you can be really sure, everyone you know and love will have the very best Christmas ever!

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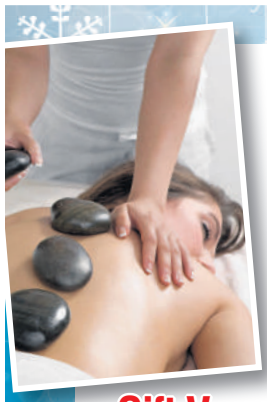
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Tradition of the Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree is generally said to have been introduced into this country by Prince Albert, the Consort of Queen Victoria. It was in fact known here well before his arrival. He may have introduced it to the masses, but Queen Caroline is recorded as having had one at a Christmas party she held in 1821. The Household of Queen Victoria however, began the popular tradition of having a decorated tree in 1841 and by 1864, it was to be found amongst the population at large. In 1854, a huge tree was set up on the site of the Great Exhibition of 1851 and this was continued until the onset of the 2nd World War. The tree in Trafalgar Square first appeared in 1946 and was a gift to Britain by the people of Oslo in Norway, a gesture they have repeated every year since.

The Queen gives two trees to St. Paul's Cathedral each year, one to stand illuminated outside, and the other to be the focal point inside, where people may leave gifts for Christmas charities.

Trees in churches and public places are to be found in their thousands all over Britain. Oddly enough, apart from the 'Exhibition Tree' mentioned above, communal trees are a relatively new idea. The first one was set up on Mount Wilson by the town of Pasadena in California in 1909. The custom spread from there, all over the United States and then over to Britain.

Trees of course had to be decorated and although festoons of silver and gold tinsel were always de rigueur, the other ornaments have been subject to changing fashions over the years. Apples, oranges, nuts, sugar mice, and chocolate 'coins', have always been popular. Evergreen cones tipped with gold paint, acorns and candles were also used. Blown eggs, painted with seasonal scenes were very high on the Victorian child's list of things to make for the Christmas tree, but the candles were most important of all.

Candles were always used on trees before the advent of electric light. They were a bit of a hazard though and many a tree went up in flames on Christmas Day. It was quite normal for a bucket of water to stand beside the tree throughout the Christmas celebrations. Their original Christian purpose was to recall the heavenly throng of souls and angels celebrating Christ's birth, Pagan beliefs were somewhat different. For them, the candles provided the guiding lights for the sun to come back from the dark regions, and for the gods to see their way about clearly in the season of winter darkness.

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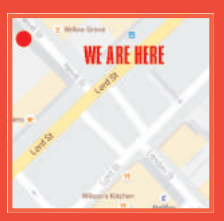

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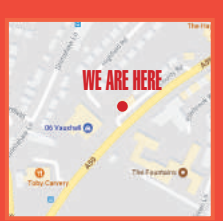

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The habit of placing a dressed, fairy doll on top of the tree, was popularised by Queen Victoria, who decreed it should be given to the child voted best of all in a school near Windsor Castle. In fact it was the last remnant of the original solstice sacrifice. The more acceptable Christian habit is to put a star on top to remind people of the Star of Bethlehem that guided visitors to the crib.

The origin of the tree lies deep in the pagan past of Germanic and Scandinavian peoples. It is thought it was originally substituted for the Winter King or Queen - a young man or girl chosen to reign for the twelve days of winter and then sacrificed to the gods of fertility, thus the habit of burning the tree on Twelfth Night. The tinsel and glittering decoration represented the wealth of gold and silver that were the property of the chosen victim until the time for the ultimate sacrifice arrived. It was considered a great honour for a family to have a member chosen thus.
What the 'victim' thought about it is another matter, and probably why eventually a tree was substituted. The doll or manikin placed on top was the witch's doll, a figure representing the chosen sacrifice.

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The history of the Christmas card

The first Christmas cards went on sale at the offices of Felix Summerley's 'Home Treasury' in Old Bond Street, London and they sold out only days after first appearing. The picture on the card was one we should recognise today, a family merrily sipping wine. This main picture was flanked by two smaller panels depicting acts of charity and the card read - 'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You' - little changes!

Much controversy surrounds their invention. Credit is usually given to a certain Sir Henry Cole, the first director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, along with his friend Royal Academician John Calcott Horsley. The artist was commissioned to design a Christmas greeting that could be sent by Cole to all his friends. This was done in 1843. Three years later in 1846, Sir Henry suggested to a printer friend that he reprint 1000 copies of his original design and they were sold at the then rather large price of one shilling each.

There were however rival contenders for the honour of being the card's inventor. These include the Reverend Edward Bradley and the painter W. Dobson. Dobson's hand-painted cards appeared in 1844 when he sent one to each of his friends instead of writing his usual Christmas letter. 1844 was also the year Mr. Bradley had a set of cards of his own design, lithographed and circulated to his friends.

There is a record of a card design appearing earlier than even the Horsley-Cole version. A sixteen-year-old apprentice printer named William Maw Egley designed and sent out a set of Christmas cards in 1842. It has been speculated that Sir Henry Cole in fact 'liberated' the idea from the young man's own, having come across him in the course of doing business with the printing firm to which young Egley was articled.

In fact, the concept of a Christmas card is rather older than any of the above. The only new thing about any of them was the name 'card' as applied to the printed item. It had long been a custom in Britain for boys away at school to write 'Christmas pieces' on specially decorated paper. These were carried home at Christmas to impress their parents. It is more than probable the idea of Christmas cards came from a combination of this custom and the New Year cards that had been circulating in Europe since much earlier in the 19th century.

Not that the idea caught on universally. It took the invention of faster, cheaper methods of printing to bring the price of cards down low enough for the average man in the street to be able to afford them.

By 1880 however, the custom of sending this type of greeting had well established itself in the list of British Christmas traditions.

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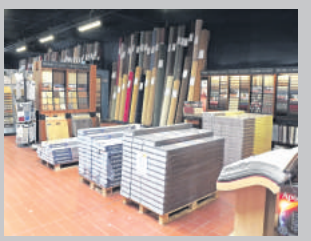

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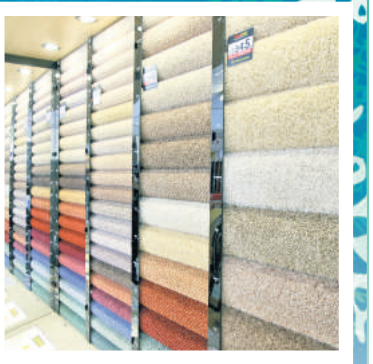

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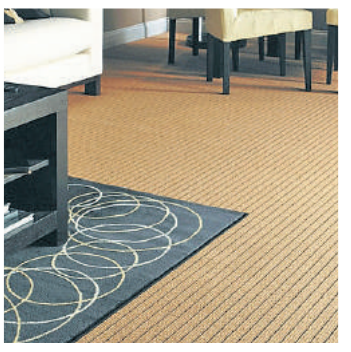

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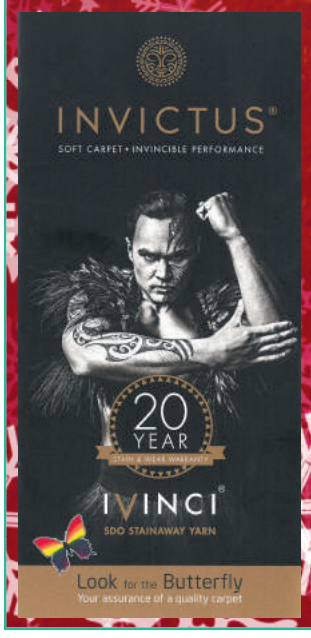

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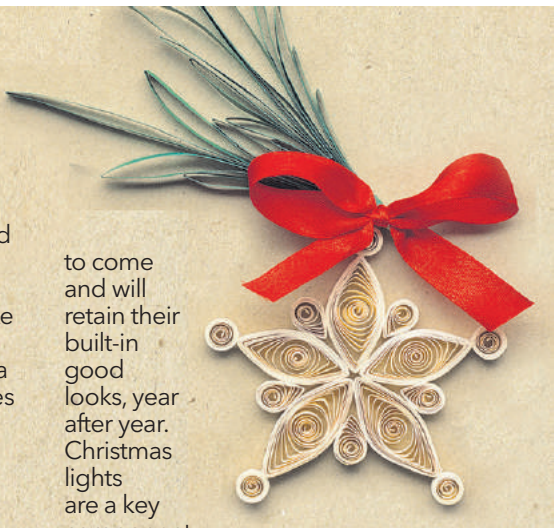

Christmas in the home usually means festive decorating. It is difficult to imagine celebrating this special time without the embellishments that now normally go with it. How you go about the decorating your home, and what it eventually costs depends very much on how you and your family see the exercise. If you go the whole hog, decorate the place up to the nines and then burn the lot ritually on the Twelfth Night, it will cost a veritable fortune every year. Much better therefore to take the baubles and decorations down carefully and bring them out, year after year, adding to your collection over time.

There is a wealth of decorating materials and options available in the shops now, with all budgets catered for. Decorations range from tiny springs of plastic holly for the Christmas cake, to enormous artificial Christmas trees that look so real you could be forgiven for trying to plant them out for next year!

In fact the simplest things sometimes make for the most spectacular displays. Natural greenery, decorated tree branches, flowers and potted plants, fruit and nuts, suitably presented take a lot of beating. Add these to a little ingenuity, a spot of invention, a vivid imagination and you'll have a home dressed to kill.

Decorate to a theme for best results. Take a colour or shape and build your theme around it. If you are short on ideas, take a look at what your local department stores is doing this year and draw inspiration and ideas from these beautifully created displays.

Candles have a fantastic seasonal quality about them. Make your own candle displays to suit the theme running throughout your room. Decorations can include sprigs of holly or pine, artificial or dried flowers and the odd ribbon or two, assembled around the base of the candle. They can look professional and expensive, as well as attractive. In all your displays, don't overlook the usefulness of pine cones, grasses, bare branches and even drift wood. Do be careful about lighting candles though. Never light them if they are part of a flammable set-piece decoration or display.

Nothing says Christmas is on it's way more than putting up the Christmas tree. Natural trees are lovely of course but unless you are very careful, the needles will start to drop as soon as the warm air of the home touches them. So why not forget about vacuuming up all those pine needles every day and go for an artificial tree this year? These have come on massively in recent times and are available in many great designs. They will last you for many years to come and will retain their built-in good looks, year after year. Christmas lights are a key component in adding an extra sparkle to proceedings. From twinkling LED lights on the tree to larger bulbs illuminating windows, porches or even trees out in the garden, the right lighting will really help create the scene and the mood you are looking for. So whether you are looking to create an ambient glow or simply outshine your neighbours, get switched on to the power of lights!!!

Another major part of dressing the home includes the dressing of the festive table. Be wise, unless it's just you and your partner, go for a paper tablecloth and napkins. White looks lovely but there is a whole spectrum of different colours to choose from, with either plain designs or printed with festive motifs. Make a colourful centrepiece either with candles, fruit or a combination of both, and your table will set the scene for the very best Christmas dinner ever. What's more, there'll be no linen to launder when it's all over, and one less job to do should be good news all round.

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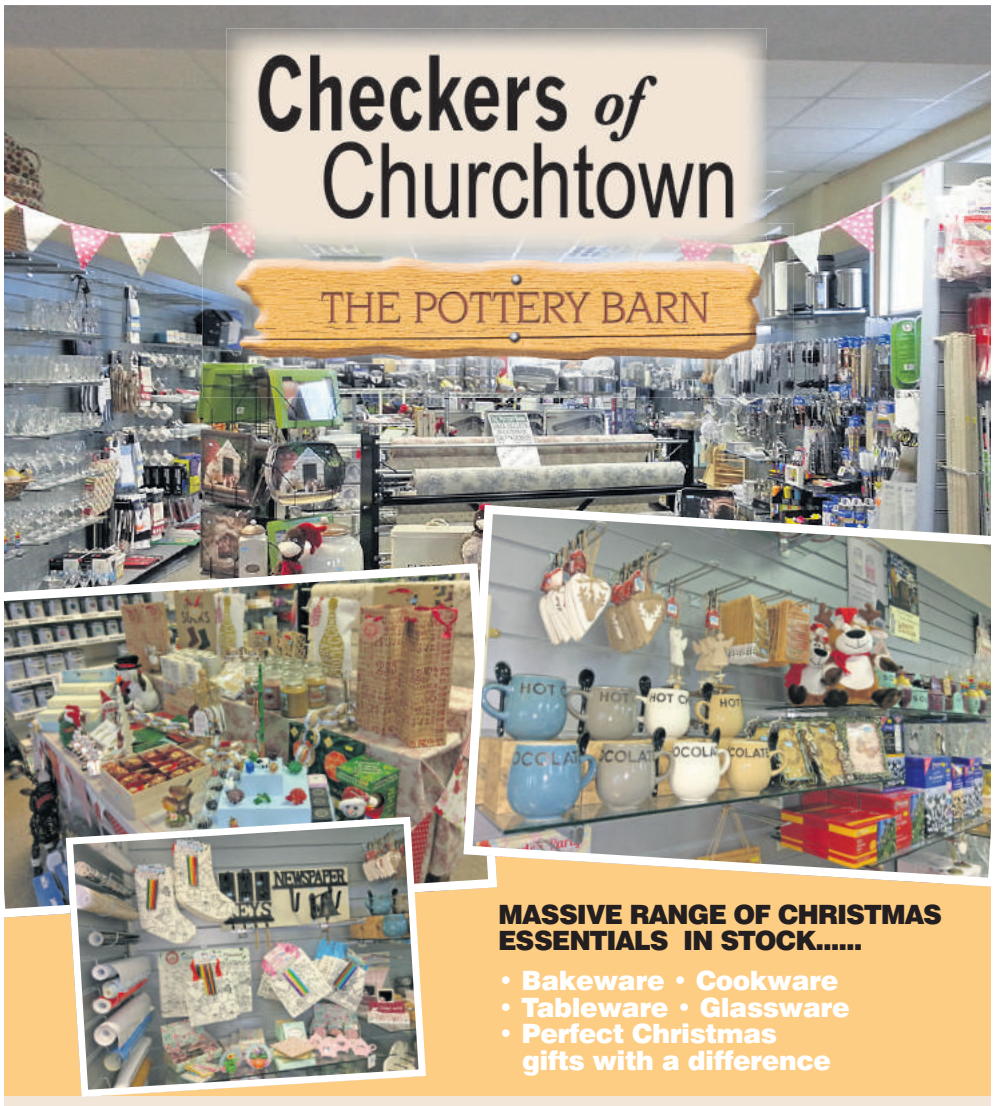

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